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Negotiators optimistic about talks with Syria

HILLEL KUTTLER
QUEENSTOWN, Maryland

ISRAEL "cannot reconcile" the weekend rocket attacks on the North with the current peace talks with Syria, Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich said yesterday, but he stopped short of saying that negotiations would be affected.

Israeli negotiators pronounced themselves content with the first three days of talks, telling Israeli reporters that "there is no question that [the Syrians] came here to express their willingness and intention to reach a peace agreement," but that "the jury is still out" on whether a deal is reachable.

The Israeli and Syrian teams agreed on Thursday night to an American suggestion that they remain in Washington this weekend, rather than return home for consultations as originally planned.

Rabinovich, who is participating in the talks along with Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and legal adviser Yoel Singer, said following the attack that "at this point, I don't want to declare from here anything about the continuation of the talks."

"We have traditionally made clear, and have made clear recently to the Syrians through the Americans, that we cannot reconcile a situation where there's no quiet in Lebanon. [But] I don't want to say anything categorically as to the continuation of talks."

The Syrian delegation expressed "curiosity" about Israeli proposals for joint and regional development projects, the negotiators said.

But they said the round of talks has merely begun a process of clarifying positions, and that "we don't know when" concrete negotiations will begin.

In a telephone conversation from his home in California, Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Prime Minister Shimon Peres that he was "satisfied" with the progress of the talks, Israeli officials said.

Israeli negotiators insisted that the decision by the two sides to remain in Washington is not linked to any particular developments, but is a function of the flexible nature of this round.

They said a mood of "openness" pervaded the discussions, and that the two sides frequently held substantive discussions without US participation.

The Americans will consult with each side separately over the long holiday weekend and discussions are to resume on Wednesday at the Wye River Conference Center.

Savir, who heads the Israeli team, said he came away believing that the Syrians have "a seriousness about reaching an agreement."

The American team did not present any bridging proposals on resolving the issue of the maximum line of withdrawal near Lake Kinneret, Israeli officials said.

But they would not discuss the content of the negotiations, except to say that they had raised water-sharing issues with the Syrians.

(Continued on Page 2)

US urges Syria to restrain Hizbullah



A Kiryat Shmona house damaged by Katyusha fire from Lebanon over the weekend.

(Aviva Shepshel/Israel Sun)

Katyushas hit Galilee in weekend attack

DAVID RUDGE

SYRIA came under fire from the US yesterday, after Hizbullah Katyusha attacks on the Galilee panhandle and Kiryat Shmona in which several homes and vehicles were badly damaged.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Shara and urged Syria to use its influence on Hizbullah to restore calm to the region.

Christopher reportedly told Shara that the attacks had come at the worst possible time. They followed reports of an optimistic mood at the close of the first round of the resumed peace talks between Israel and Syria.

Shara replied that Syria is opposed to any escalation of fighting and would do its utmost to restore calm.

Hizbullah, however, in a defiant statement said it is the "defender of the people, and there is nothing that can prevent it from exercising its role in this matter."

It claimed responsibility for firing a total of 12 Katyushas, in two salvos, at the Galilee panhandle just before midnight on Friday and at 2 a.m. yesterday.

Hizbullah said the rockets were in retaliation for IDF tank fire on Friday morning, which had come in response to an attack by gunmen against a South Lebanese Army outpost in the security zone.

A Lebanese civilian from Kabriha was killed by the tank fire and his brother and father were badly wounded. Nearby, a house was hit by another tank round, and a woman and two men were wounded.

The IDF Spokesman issued a statement saying that Hizbullah gunmen had been spotted on the outskirts of Kabriha and IDF troops in the security zone.

The statement stressed that terrorists have for several days been using villages as cover to launch attacks against IDF and SLA troops in the security zone.

The spokesman said the army tried, as much as possible, to avoid hitting villages or civilians, despite the shooting by the terrorists.

Yossi and Miriam had been sitting in their living room of their newly constructed home in Kiryat Shmona when the first Katyusha salvo struck in the distance.

Later they went to bed and were debating whether or not it would be wise to spend the night

in their bomb shelter, when the second salvo struck. One of the rockets exploded in the kitchen and blasted walls and windows and sent shrapnel into the living room.

Several other homes were badly damaged by the blast, with windows blown out and walls peppered with shrapnel. One woman was lightly injured by glass splinters and four others were treated at Kiryat Shmona's MDA station for shock.

A number of cars, including Yossi's, were badly damaged. Another rocket exploded in the middle of a road in the town, wrecking a new car parked nearby and damaging several others.

"The only thing that's left of our house is the bedroom," said Yossi. "This house has cost my wife and me 25 years of our lives. It's not the price, however, but the heartbreak and the uncaring attitude of the government. It's beginning to get me down."

Another person said he was driving to his father's house to visit after the first rocket attack when he saw the second salvo fall by their home.

Teams of officials from the property tax department went to the scene to assess the damage, and emergency repairs were started.

Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran held an emergency meeting of the city council and issued a statement calling on the government to take appropriate action to stop the attacks and boost development in the area.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres announced that he would visit Kiryat Shmona instead and meet with Azran and members of the city council.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, who was vacationing in the North, went to Kiryat Shmona to see the situation for himself. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak also visited the scene.

"We have to make it clear to the Syrians that a test of their seriousness to come closer to an arrangement is the restraining of Hizbullah in south Lebanon," said Sneh.

The Prime Minister's Office warned that Israel would do everything possible to protect its citizens.

"We take a very grave view of the Katyusha attack, and will make an appropriate response," spokeswoman Aliza Goren said. "We have asked the US to urge Syria to restrain Hizbullah."

(Continued on Page 2)

Hizbullah reminds us it has its own agenda

BACKGROUND

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH'S Katyusha attacks on the Galilee panhandle late Friday night were entirely predictable.

It was clear on Friday morning that Hizbullah was likely to retaliate - as it has in the past - for the killing of a Lebanese civilian and the wounding of five others by IDF tank fire.

The only question was whether Syrian pressure on Hizbullah to restrain itself because of the peace talks would suffice to prevent the attack. The Syrians have nothing to gain and, potentially, a great deal to lose, from an escalation in south Lebanon at such a delicate juncture in the talks.

Talks in America, however, are one thing, and events in south Lebanon, where Hizbullah has its own agenda to consider, are something else.

Since 1992, following its internecine war with Amal, Hizbullah has been the self-appointed protector of the civilian population north of the security zone. Even before then, it had been leading the "resistance" trying to oust the IDF from Lebanon.

In 1992, however, Hizbullah announced it would retaliate for any attack by the IDF, or its ally the South Lebanese Army, on villages north of the zone by bombing towns and villages in the Galilee.

Hizbullah has adhered strictly to its pledge, even after the 1993 Operation Accountability understandings, in which it agreed to stop shelling the Galilee in return for an Israeli commitment not to hit towns and villages north of the zone.

Since then, Hizbullah gunmen have often used houses in villages as cover for launching mortar and anti-tank missile attacks on the IDF and SLA on the presumption that the IDF would refrain from direct return fire in an effort to avoid civilian casualties.

On Friday morning, IDF tanks returned fire after an attack on an SLA outpost. On this occasion, however, the flechette rounds hit a tractor towing a water tank, killing one man and badly wounding his father and brother.

Another of the dart-filled shells, which UN forces say are banned under the Geneva Convention, hit a house, wounding three other people, including a woman.

The incident was widely reported in Lebanon and throughout the world, leaving Hizbullah in a dilemma - to bow to Syrian pressure or maintain its image as "Lebanon's protector."

Since Hizbullah is also looking to its political future in Lebanon in the event of a peace treaty between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon, and is still engaged in a struggle with Amal to win the hearts and minds of the Shi'ite community, the real question was not whether it would retaliate, but when.

That only two salvos of Katyushas were fired and that the IDF's response was muted are, however, an indication that both sides are aware of the political realities and do not want a serious escalation.

Nimrodi trial opens today

RAINE MARCUS

THE trial of *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi, charged with 15 counts of commissioning wiretapping and transferring hush money to private investigators Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur, opens today in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, with Judge George Kara presiding.

Nimrodi, who resigned as chief editor of *Ma'ariv* following his indictment in August, is charged together with David Ronen, deputy director of Nimrodi's Hachsharat Hayishuv company.

Ronen, 67, a former senior GSS officer, who is facing 16 charges, was Nimrodi's right-hand man from 1992-1994 when the pair commissioned the bugging of phones and faxes of senior Yediot personnel and other businessmen.

However, Nimrodi's lawyers, Dan Avi Yitzhak and Yehuda Weinstein, filed a request for material with the court last week. They blamed the office for failing to supply them with the bulk of

prosecution information necessary to prepare the defense case. The request, nearly 20 pages long, will probably cause the attorneys to request an adjournment, sources said, since a plea hearing cannot take place if the defense has not received all the prosecution's material against its clients.

The arrests of Nimrodi and Ronen were made possible when Tsur secretly agreed to testify for the prosecution last February. He will receive \$200,000 and other benefits over a three-year period in return for his typed testimony.

Tsur did not succeed in recording evidence directly against Nimrodi, who refused to meet with him in Israel, but he gathered information against him via lawyer Motti Katz and Friedman.

Tsur will not testify against Friedman.

Katz was also arrested last April and police have evidence (Continued on Page 2)

Two IDF soldiers wounded in attack on armored vehicle

DAVID RUDGE

TWO IDF soldiers were wounded as fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday.

The incident occurred around 5 p.m. when Hizbullah gunmen fired Sagger anti-tank missiles at an IDF patrol near Rashaf, in the security zone's western sector.

One of the missiles scored a direct hit on an armored personnel carrier and two soldiers were wounded by shrapnel. They were evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. One was reported to have been moderately hurt, and the other was suffering from light injuries.

Hizbullah gunmen simultaneously fired mortars and more anti-tank missiles at

South Lebanese Army positions in the same area. There were no casualties.

There have been several similar long-range attacks on SLA positions and IDF patrols in the Rashaf-Hadatha region in the past few days.

Both Hizbullah and Amal have recently stepped up their operations against IDF and SLA troops in the zone.

Some Lebanese observers said it appeared the two are trying to win points in the struggle over which of them will rule the Shi'ite community in south Lebanon in the event of a peace accord between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon and the withdrawal of the IDF from the security zone.

Arafat in Ramallah: Jerusalem is next

News agencies

"TODAY we begin our path towards an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told thousands of cheering Ramallah residents yesterday, three days after the IDF withdrew from the city.

Arafat landed his helicopter at the city's former military headquarters and reviewed an honor guard before addressing the crowd from the roof of the building. He later held a cabinet meeting in the city.

Security guards surrounded the building and took up positions on roofs as residents poured into the streets to catch a glimpse of the PLO leader.

A 60-meter banner hung from the main police station, hailing Arafat and others in the Palestinian Authority as "the makers of

the peace of the brave."

Ramallah and neighboring Al-Bira "have become liberated forever," said Arafat, who was surrounded by uniformed Palestinian police officers.

"Today we make history: the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," Arafat told the crowd.

The crowds cheered and shouted: "We give our allegiance to you!"

Nabiba Sayyed, 53, a pharmacist, said "Thank God everything has changed. This place [police headquarters] was a place of humiliation for the Palestinians. Today, it is a place of dignity for us."

Arafat also urged Palestinian residents of

Jerusalem, just 15 kilometers from Ramallah, to vote in the January 20 elections for the Palestinian self-rule council.

"Your vote will be a defense of the Arab character of Jerusalem," he said. "At the end of the tunnel we see the minarets of Jerusalem, the walls of Jerusalem and the churches of Jerusalem."

Today Arafat is scheduled to visit Kalkilya and Tulikarn. The IDF has denied Israel's access to the two towns until further notice. The IDF Spokesman announced last night.

The Likud last night in a statement denounced "the government's embarrassing silence in light of Arafat's statements on...Jerusalem," which, despite this silence, "would remain the united capital of Israel."

'Al-Quds' editor freed after personal reprimand from Arafat

BILL HUTMAN

AL-QUDS editor Maher Alami was released by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service last night, after Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat personally reprimanded him for not putting a story about him on the front page.

Arafat last Sunday ordered Alami arrested because he put the Christmas story praising him on an inside page. Alami was kidnapped from Jerusalem by the security force and held in Jericho.

Alami said an adviser to Arafat called him last Saturday afternoon and told him to put the story, which compared Arafat to the Arab conqueror of Jerusalem, Caliph Omar Khattab, on page one.

But there wasn't room on the front page "because of the large number of election advertisements, and the photo of Ara-

fat," Alami said.

Yesterday, Alami was taken by Preventive Security agents from Jericho to Ramallah to meet Arafat. Alami said he explained to Arafat why the Christmas story wasn't on the front page.

Arafat told Alami he should have put the story where he was told, but also ordered him released after the short meeting.

"I was released without any conditions, and was not forced to sign any document," Alami said. "You have to sign a paper when you violate a law, not for putting a story in the wrong place."

Palestinian sources confirmed Arafat and his advisers routinely tell editors at Palestinian papers what stories to run and

where to run them.

The fact no Palestinian paper, including *Al-Quds*, mentioned Alami's arrest shows the fear many Palestinian journalists have of angering Arafat, the sources said.

Alami said he "never expect-

ed such a reaction" for not running a story where Arafat wanted.

"I am very sorry for this entire affair," Alami said. "Democracy is not something that you just talk about, it is also something you must practice. Palestinian society is not yet practicing democracy."

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Bill would regulate GSS activities

PUBLISHING the name of the head of the General Security Service will still be forbidden under a new law regulating the service, which will be brought for the final approval of Prime Minister Shimon Peres this week, the Justice Ministry said yesterday.

Some months ago, the state had told the High Court of Justice — in response to two petitions against the publication ban which

are still pending — that it would consider removing the ban as part of this bill.

In the end, however, the Justice Ministry decided to retain the publication ban with respect to all GSS employees and informers.

However, the bill states that the prime minister will have the option to waive this ban on publication of names if he chooses to do so.

EVELYN GORDON

According to the ministry, the bill's contents will be published after Peres approves it, to permit responses from the public before it is brought to the cabinet and then submitted to the Knesset.

Under the bill, the GSS would still have the same responsibilities and be subject to the same control mechanisms.

However, for the first time these issues would be regulated by law rather than administrative order.

The bill also attempts to strike a balance between security needs and the requirements of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom with respect to interrogation procedures used by the GSS, the Justice Ministry said.

A rough draft of the bill has

been submitted to the Shamgar Commission investigating the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

This was done since, among other things, the bill defines the GSS's responsibilities in the protection of public figures.

According to the Justice Ministry, the bill was originally supposed to have been submitted to Rabin the day after he was killed.

Law to implement interim accord with PLO goes to cabinet

EVELYN GORDON

A LAW to enable implementation of the interim agreement with the PLO will be brought to the cabinet for approval today, in an effort to get it through the Knesset before elections for the Palestinian Authority council on January 20.

Among other items, the bill will permit post offices in eastern Jerusalem to serve as balloting stations for the elections, something which is currently illegal.

The law also states that Israeli courts will no longer deal with civil suits by Palestinians against the civil administration in any area for which the PA has assumed responsibility. Under the interim agreement, the PA agreed to assume responsibility for all liabilities incurred by the civil administration in these areas. Such suits have thus become a matter between Palestinians and the PA, and should therefore be settled by PA courts, the Justice Ministry explained.

This provision covers items such as medical negligence suits against hospitals in the territo-

ries, suits related to the wages or pension of civil administration employees, suits connected with contracts to which the civil administration was a party, and suits for damages resulting from car accidents between Arab residents of the territories.

The bill also permits the interior minister to establish checkpoints for Arabs coming from the PA into Israel; allows the justice minister to set up a committee on prisoner releases to do the work currently being done by a ministerial committee; and allows policemen to execute orders from the Baliffs' Office against Jewish residents of the territories.

A second part of the law, dealing with economic issues, will be discussed by the ministerial committee on legislation tomorrow, in an effort to bring it to the cabinet for approval next week.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister David Liba'i will raise the issue of Palestinian debts to Israelis at the next meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian committee on legal affairs on Thursday.

Sarid, Tzur, Beilin want Trans-Israel Highway reconsidered

LIAT COLLINS

THREE ministers have submitted a proposal to re-examine the need for the Trans-Israel Highway (Route 6). The bill, presented by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur, and Minister Yossi Beilin, is to be discussed by the government in the near future.

The three propose establishing a ministerial committee, to be chaired by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and composed of Sarid, Tzur, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, and Housing and Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, to examine whether the highway is essential, alternatives to it, and its standards, timetable, and "land-guzzling."

The committee would ask a panel of experts to draw up its recommendations within three months. These would then also be presented to the government.

"The aim of bringing the periphery closer to the center — particularly bringing Beersheba closer to the Dan region — is important, but one must check whether this couldn't be done by different means," said Sarid.

He said the alternatives could include improving existing roads and developing a high speed railway.

Sarid the huge scale of the planned highway would consume tens of thousands of dunams in the center of the country that could be used for other construction or necessary recreation areas.

He said if the road is found to be essential, the planners should consider ways of limiting its size and establishing it in stages to preserve as much land as possible.

Tzur also suggested developing rail services because of dwindling land resources.

He said investment should be made in improving the quality of life in peripheral towns by adding employment opportunities and offering better educational and cultural facilities.

This should be done instead of investing in roads, he said.

NIMRODI

(Continued from Page 1) incriminating him in transferring monthly sums of cash to Friedman and Tzur, via Ronen, to ensure they did not cooperate with police. Although the District Attorney's Office has indicated several times that Katz will be indicted on charges of obstructing justice and disrupting the investigation he has not yet been charged.

He is expected to be summoned as a prosecution witness against Nimrodi and Ronen, but by law can only testify against them after his own trial is complete or if he reaches an agreement with the district attorney.

Until April, the maximum sentences for commissioning and carrying out wiretapping were three years and one year's imprisonment, respectively. However an amendment in the law increased the maximum sentences to five and three years, but the amendment is only effective for offenses committed after April 1995.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat waves yesterday from the roof of Ramallah's former military HQ. (Reuters)

Arafat calls the shots for the media

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS '96

JON IMMANUEL

THE official start of the election campaign has been postponed six days to January 5, following the reopening of candidate and voter registration, the Palestinian Central Elections Commission announced yesterday.

This latest change leaves only 13 days for the election campaign itself, which ends on January 18, two days before the balloting.

The addition of five new seats to the council, which raises the number from 83 to 88 (plus the separately elected council president) means that some of the 16 districts have gotten more seats. New seats were added to Jerusalem, Hebron and Khan Yunis, while Gaza City got two.

For days, dozens of hopeful independent candidates have announced themselves, at more than NIS 1,000 a shot, in the Arabic press. These ads are considered acceptable "pre-campaign candidacy announcements."

The Palestinian Election Law, in Article 57, calls for "equal and fair" campaigning opportunities for all candidates. However no program has yet been devised to translate this into practice. With more than 500 independents running, it is difficult to see how each will have effective access to the national media. Only one opposition political party, the Palestinian People's Party (PPP), is running against Yasser Arafat's Fatah in a substantial number of the 16 election districts.

An indication of the kind of coverage that is likely after the official campaign gets under

way can be seen from the treatment of Samiha Khalil, a left-wing woman activist from Al-Bira, who is challenging Arafat for the post of council president. According to Article 57, for all presidential candidates "media treatment shall be equal."

Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), the Paris-based media interest group, which has been observing Palestinian media coverage of the elections since December 15, noted that Khalil's candidacy has not been mentioned once on Palestinian TV and radio. Even her press conference last week was ignored. Arafat, meanwhile, has received more than one hour of broadcast time for his candidacy.

Ali Tamimi, a Hebron businessman who withdrew his candidacy two weeks ago, was also ignored.

While 20 "independent" candidates — almost all Fatah supporters — have been given radio time, only two, Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanaani and Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath, have had TV exposure, RSF said.

"The situation is too confused to expect fair access. The problem is there is no access," says Thierry Cuvelier, leading a 13-member French-Belgian RSF team from offices near the Israeli checkpoint in northern

Jerusalem.

Radio has proven better than TV. While six political parties have had access to radio, only Fatah and the PPP have so far appeared on TV. The PPP had 17 seconds and Fatah 71 minutes. On radio, Fatah got 55 minutes and Hamas 31. FIDA, a Fatah ally, got 17 minutes.

Saman Khoury, deputy director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Service (and a FIDA supporter) told the RSF team he was not surprised by its findings, but "we will give equal time to each of the candidates on radio."

Five minutes of equal time to each of the 500 independent candidates comes to almost 42 hours of broadcasts.

Even if three hours is made available each day for the political broadcasts, it would take longer to fit them in than there are campaign days.

Makram Khoury-Makhoor, president of the Jaffa Group public relations agency which handled the Meretz account in its successful 1992 election campaign, says so many independents cannot profit from such broadcasts.

He says that Article 57 "is too general. There is no restriction on advertising so it favors the rich." In any case, he adds, Palestinian radio and TV do not reach every area.

"I would recommend seeking

coverage on Israel Radio and TV's Arabic service," which is widely received, he said. Whether that would enhance or discredit a candidate, however, is unclear.

Ghassan Khatib, a PPP official, said — even before the latest decision to shorten the campaign schedule — that he was dissatisfied with the time frame for elections, more than with lack of access to the media.

Khatib said that for these elections, the media is less important than other campaign tactics.

"We are small communities and the official media is not as essential as in bigger countries," he explained, adding the key to success is old-fashioned campaign stamping.

But in this, too, Fatah has a big advantage. Arafat and other Fatah officials can campaign anywhere.

"Fatah can move easily because of its connection to the PA; Israel gives travel permits according to the recommendation of the Palestinian Authority," Khatib says.

The press has recently expanded to include three new newspapers, but all three — *Al-Ayyam*, *Al-Bilad*, and *Al-Hayat al-Jadida*, are all linked to Fatah. The older and more independent *Al-Quds* and *An-Nahar* dailies, meanwhile, have come under intense pressure to project a more pro-Arafat image.

This is part one of a series on the upcoming Palestinian election campaign.

Weekend road toll: 5 killed, 12 hurt

FIVE people were killed and 12 injured in weekend road accidents.

Shmuel and Sigal Bessakazi, aged 32 and 30, respectively, were killed Friday evening and their two young children were injured when their car swerved into a trailer attached to a truck parked on the side of the road near Omer.

Magen David Adom crews rushed to the scene but the parents had been killed on impact.

The two children were taken to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital for treatment, where they were reported in good condition.

In Rahat, the toddler was crushed to death by his father's truck which, his father told police, rolled back and ran his son over while he was playing nearby. Police are investigating.

An 85-year-old Tel Aviv woman was killed last night when she was hit by a private bus while crossing at the corner of Ibn Gvirol and Marmorek Streets. The driver was detained by police.

In Haifa, 47-year-old Peter Malmendberg of Haifa was killed when the van he was driving

smashed into a semitrailer on the side of the road.

Ten people were injured in a head-on collision between two cars at Rosh Hanikra yesterday. Most of the injured, from Beersheba and Majdel Krum, were taken to Nabariya Government Hospital, while two were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Through Friday noon, nine people had been killed during the week — including five pedestrians — and 31 were seriously hurt in road accidents nationwide.

Police revoked more than 320 drivers' licenses.

Since the beginning of the year, 679 people have been killed in road accidents on both sides of the Green Line.

According to Israel Radio, 527 people were killed within the Green Line this year through Friday morning, compared to 542 last year.

The figures do not include those who died of their injuries in the course of the year.

Accidents inside the Green Line were up 5.6 percent over 1994. (Itim)

Namir: Ouman plant will not be reopened

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said last night in Ofakim that there was no chance that Polgat would reopen the Ouman textile plant, which it closed last Friday.

She added, however, that her ministry would agree to provide funding to allow local day care centers to open earlier and close later. This would allow Ouman workers who are mothers of small children to accept alternative jobs Polgat has offered them in other cities.

Namir made her remarks during a meeting with Ofakim leaders to discuss proposals she could raise at today's cabinet meeting on the unemployment crisis in the town.

She suggested the government apply the same strategies to Of-

akim that she said worked successfully in Yokne'am, which suffered a serious bout of unemployment when Soltam, one of that town's major employers, closed its plant there several years ago.

"The government has to take the problem of Ofakim seriously and invest in establishing many varied industries in the town, so that the entire town's livelihood should not be based on one industry," Namir said. "The government did this in Yokne'am, and today it is a thriving place."

Meanwhile, ECI Telecom confirmed early Friday morning that it would move quickly to set up a plant in Ofakim, and gave the Trade and Industry Ministry the go-ahead to issue an announcement to this effect. (Itim)

Poll: 62.4% approval rating for PM Peres

IN the first survey of his performance since taking over as prime minister, a majority of Israelis said they approved of Shimon Peres, a poll published Friday said.

According to the telephone poll published in *Ma'ariv*, 37.8% of those surveyed said they were satisfied with Peres and another 24.6% said he was doing "so-so." It said 21.3% polled were not satisfied. The poll did not account for the remaining 16%.

The poll was conducted by Gallup. It was taken between December 26 and December 28.

Jerusalem Post Staff

TALKS

(Continued from Page 1) Officials also said that despite the presence at the talks of Singer and his Syrian counterpart Riad Daoudi, the sides are not formulating a declaration of principles because "we never suggested such a thing" be done at this point.

"It was very interesting to hear, in-depth, over a long period, the positions the Syrians articulated," Savir said. "I think it's too early to describe the details. We're just midway through the round, and at the end of the week we'll return to Jerusalem with more detailed impressions."

He said it remained Israel's goal to reach "a definition of a common goal" with Damascus, namely a peace treaty.

HIZBULLAH

(Continued from Page 1)

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the violence on Israel's border with Lebanon would end only when peace with Syria was achieved.

"No one should delude himself with the thought that a military response can bring about a change in the reality in Lebanon. The only way to bring about peace and security is through a peace deal with Syria, which will also solve the problem in Lebanon," he told Israel Radio.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu said that "the fact that the attack came during the Washington negotiations shows that Syria is using Hizbullah as a means of pressuring Israel to give up the Golan Heights."

Iranian vice-president calls off Damascus visit

TEHERAN (Reuters) — Iran announced yesterday it had scrapped a visit to Syria by its first vice-president only three days before it was due to take place.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted an "informed official" at the presidential office as saying Iranian First Vice-President Hassan Habibi's visit to Damascus next week had been "called off." Habibi has not set any date for making the trip.

Iran has been concerned about the effect Syria's latest peace moves with Israel could have for Hizbullah in Lebanon, diplomats say.

Iran has not officially commented on the latest peace moves with Israel by Syria, traditionally its closest ally in the Arab world. But Iranian media have predicted the talks would fail.

In a rare move, Iranian newspapers yesterday blasted Syria for supporting an Arab statement by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Thursday backing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its dispute with Iran over three contested Gulf islands. Besides the UAE, the GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved

WILLIAM REICH (Zaidy)

For details concerning the funeral call 02-665-923 from 11:30 a.m. and on, Sunday.

The bereaved family:

Wife: Ida

Brother: Bernard

Children: Hannah Berman, Paula Thaler

Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

Dr. YOSEPH KANAN

who has bequeathed his body to science

Wife: Aliza Kanan

Daughters and sons-in-law: Ruth and Avraham Ben-Yoseph Gila and Danny Shapira

Grandchildren: Dorit and Avi Plintz

Amnon and Tamar Ben-Yoseph, Eldad, Assaf, Adva and Arnon

Great-grandchildren: Tal, Nir and Stav

Sister: Irit Elgel

مركز النجف

Flatulent pigs top the stories that made '95 a gas

BRUSSELS (Reuter) - Spare a thought at New Year for the pigs whose wind forced down an airliner and the researchers who said sperm could smell.

Somewhat indelicate? Then raise a glass to the dog that dined the police, the man who married his guitar and the homesick cat that walked 200 km home.

Or pop the bubbly for the Florida surgeons who printed "no" on limbs they were not to amputate, and the divorced Briton who divided his marital property with a chain saw.

It is time to greet the New Year with a toast to the weird and wonderful stories that graced the world's headlines in 1995.

Animals, as usual, grabbed the limelight. Flatulent pigs caused a near-disaster when their wind forced a South African Airways flight to turn back. A buildup of methane from 72 stud porkers set off fire alarms in the hold.

A dog caused British bobbies to break into a house with sledgehammers after it knocked over a telephone and "dialed" Britain's emergency 999 number.

The owner forgave the dog but wanted the police to help pay for a new door.

A French cat, meanwhile, disliked its new home in Marseille and walked across the French Riviera back to Nice, 200 km away.

Elsewhere, human foibles made news. To the irritation of his real wife, a British man "married" his guitar in a ceremony performed by a friend. The bride, a Fender Stratocaster, did not get a honeymoon.

Divorce for the former Miss Stratocaster would presumably be an easier affair than for the hapless ex-wife of another Briton who literally carved up the property - including the dining table and the porch - at his former spouse's home. He was sent to prison for 12 months.

Across the Atlantic, Florida surgeons were apparently also worried about too much carving. After they removed the wrong foot from a patient, the hospital ordered that limbs be left alone should be marked with a clear "no".

Still in the world of medicine, one of the strangest findings came from US researchers who said sperm sniffed their way to eggs to fertilize them. The researchers reckoned that if they could put the sperm off the scent they would have a new contraceptive.

Luck was not kind to a number of people in 1995.

An American woman was arrested trying to break in to a prison. Argentine police burst into an old people's home and arrested a 98-year-old woman they believed to be a drug peddler. She had been mistaken for someone of the same name but somewhat younger.

Thieves at a southern German department store kept choosing the wrong target. The store's manager, a marathon runner, chased down at least five of them on separate occasions.

Justice caught up with Britain's unluckiest traveler, a man who claimed to have lost his luggage nearly every time he flew. After claiming more than \$135,000 for lost or damaged bags over two years, he got 18 months for insurance fraud.

In Hong Kong, a man who tried rob a bank by dousing himself and the bank floor in kerosene was apprehended after his lighter would not work.

Not everyone had a bad year. As a sign of hope for the future, hats off at New Year, please, to the British cleric who finally passed his driving test - after 632 lessons, \$7,800 in fees, eight instructors and five crashed cars.

Mixing up the clutch and brake was the problem, he said.



Swiss country folk from the canton of Appenzel dress up in traditional costumes with head wear depicting scenes of rural life. According to custom, these so-called 'Silvesterchlaesse' go from farm to farm singing and ringing cowbells to herald the coming of the new year. Celebrations took place a day early this year because Swiss law forbids reveling on Sunday.

A toast to newsmakers of '95

COMMENT

MIKE LITWIN

IT'S the year of the Internet. The year of cyberspace. The year of Windows '95, which, of course, expires tonight. The year Bill "I Got Mine" Gates finally made his first \$20 billion. In China, it might be the year of the rat. In America, it's always the year of the mouse (now, the one-click mouse).

In the spirit of the season, I was going to send my holiday greetings out over the Internet, but somebody forgot to give me a computer for Christmas. I did, however, get an O.J. doll. It walks, but only after handing a Johnnie Cochran doll \$6 million.

Since I still don't have access to E-mail, and actual greetings cards would cost me actual money, I decided, once again, to send my greetings through the newspaper, meaning you pay. Please forgive me (charity is the point of this season, isn't it?). Happy holidays.

To Michael Jackson, for telling us some of his best friends are Jewish.

To Hollywood's Roland Joffe, who changed the ending of *The Scarlet Letter*, for not directing *Hamlet*. (Unless you want the play to end with Hamlet running a bed and breakfast.)

To the Woodman, for still being funny.

To Bruce's fans, for the silence.

To Bob Dole, for running on the basis that he's not Phil Gramm.

To Colin Powell, for knowing he could win by not contending.

To Jerry Garcia, for the long, strange trip.

To Bill Kunstler, for one that was longer and stranger.

To Ringo, Paul and George, for not touring.

To Louis Farrakhan, for the million-minute speech.

To Hugh Grant, for having to pay for having to pay.

To Michael Jackson, for telling us some of his best friends are Jewish.

To Hollywood's Roland Joffe, who changed the ending of *The Scarlet Letter*, for not directing *Hamlet*. (Unless you want the play to end with Hamlet running a bed and breakfast.)

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To Hugh Grant, for having to pay for having to pay.

World population up 100 million

WASHINGTON (AP) - The world's population grew this year by 100 million people, to 5.75 billion, the largest increase ever, the head of a Washington population research organization reported last week.

And disturbingly, Werner Fornos of the Population Institute said, 90 percent of the growth is in poor countries, "already terribly torn by civil strife and social unrest and where all too many people live in brutal poverty."

Fornos, giving the institute's 1995 *World Population Overview*, told reporters that effective birth control policies and practices could stabilize world population by 2015 at about eight billion. But unless family planning is actively promoted, he said, there could be an increase to as many as 14 billion people.

"Some three billion young people will be entering their reproductive years in this coming generation," Fornos said. "How well these young people are able

to implement the awesome responsibility of parenting... will make the difference between our setting course for an environmental Armageddon in the 21st century or a better quality of life."

The Population Institute is a private research group, and Fornos emphasized it receives no US government money. Its funding comes from the United Nations, foundations and individuals.

To illustrate the difference between population growth in wealthy and poor countries, Fornos compared conditions in Iowa in the US and Bangladesh, which have about the same area.

At present growth rates, Iowa will need a century to double its population of less than 3 million. But Fornos estimated that Bangladesh will double its 128 million people in less than 30 years.

Around the globe, he said, the people of 80 countries are reproducing at a rate to double their populations within those same 30 years or less.

Refurbished Times Square ball promises a glittering new year

NEW YORK (Reuter) - The ball that drops in New York's Times Square tonight to light up the New Year has caught up with the times. This year, the ball atop the One Times Square Building will be computerized and illuminated by lasers. In addition to the nearly 100 million American television viewers, for the first time it will be live on the Internet.

The ball, a tradition since 1906 when the *New York Times* moved in and renamed the famous intersection, has been unchanged since 1948, except in 1982 when an apple was substituted - a move that was almost universally unpopular.

The ball used to have rows of ordinary light bulbs and was lowered by hand by six men to signal the magic moment when champagne bottles pop and bands strike up auld lang syne.

Beginning at 6 p.m. today, the new ball will pulsate with strobes, a 10,000 watt xenon bulb and 12,000 rhinestones. A minute before midnight, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani will focus a laser onto the 500-pound (1,100 kg) ball, which will flash, emit fog and descend by a mechanical rigging device calibrated to the National Institute of Standards atomic clock in Boulder, Colorado.

For 50 years the Times Square event has been seen on television, and this year it will also be seen live on the Internet. Internet cafes in Belgrade, Paris and Ottawa plan parties to celebrate the New Year - New York time - on-line.

About 37 percent of all Americans, 92 million people, will be watching the Times Square ball drop on television. The crowd at the crossroads of the world, Times Square, will number about 300,000.

Some of the notables who died during the past year

January 6
Joe Slovo, a Jewish Lithuanian immigrant who fought apartheid for decades with bombs, strikes and shrewd negotiating skills, dies of bone marrow cancer in Johannesburg at 68.

January 22
Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, the matriarch of one of America's most prominent political families, dies from complications of pneumonia on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. She was 104.

January 26
Geoffrey Parsons, the Australian pianist who accompanied some of the world's leading singers, dies of bone cancer in London at age 65.

January 31
George Abbott, the US stage wizard who wrote, directed, produced or acted in plays and musicals, dies of a stroke in Miami Beach, Florida, at 107.

February 2
Donald Pleasence, British actor, dies in St. Paul de Vence, France, at 75.

February 4
Patricia Highsmith, the American crime novelist, dies at 74 in Locarno, Switzerland.

February 9
Former US Sen. J. William Fulbright dies of a stroke in Washington at 89.

February 24
Director Jack Clayton, who began an era of social realism in British film with the 1958 movie *Room at the Top*, dies in Slough, England, at 73.

March 1
Max Rudolf, who conducted some of the world's greatest orchestras, dies in Philadelphia at age 92; Georges Koehler, who shared the 1984 Nobel Prize for medicine, dies of a lung infection in Freiburg, Germany, at 48.

March 9
Yisrael Galili, the man who invented the Galil submachine gun and helped create the famed Uzi submachine gun, dies at 72 after suffering a heart attack in Givatayim.

March 10
Franciszek Gajowniczek, an Auschwitz inmate saved when Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan monk, took his place at a Nazi execution, dies in Brzeg, Poland. He was 94.

March 15
World War II hero Lord Lovat, who led his commando unit onto the Normandy beaches, dies in Beaulieu, Scotland, at 83.

April 1
Selena, the Grammy winning Mexican-American singer, is shot to death by an employee in Corpus Christi, Texas, at 23; Dame Lucie Rie, a noted modern potter, dies in London at 93.

April 2
Swedish scientist Hannes Alfven, winner of the 1970 Nobel

Prize for Physics who was best known for debunking the Big Bang theory, dies in Stockholm at 86.

April 8
Edda Ciano, who renounced her surname after her father - Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini - ordered her husband's execution, dies in Rome at 84.

April 14
Burl Ives, the balladeer and actor who created the role of Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, dies in Anacortes, Washington, at 85. He was suffering from mouth cancer.

April 25
Ginger Rogers, who made dance magic with Fred Astaire in a string of unforgettable musicals, dies in Rancho Mirage, California, at 83.

April 27
Former British intelligence officer Peter Wright, author of the best-selling autobiography *Spycatcher*, dies of pneumonia in Tasmania, Australia, at 78.

May 11
David Avidan, a poet and playwright, dies in Tel Aviv at 61.

May 15
Stage and film actor Eric Porter, who gained international fame with his television role in the *The Forsyte Saga*, dies in London at age 67. He was under treatment for cancer.

May 24
Harold Wilson, the Labor Party prime minister who led Britain through one crisis after another in the 1960s and 70s, dies in his sleep in London at 79.

May 29
Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the US House and Senate, dies of complications from a stroke in Skowhegan, Maine, at 97.

June 3
Jean Marin, president of the French news service Agence France-Presse for 21 years, dies in Paris at 86; J. Presper Eckert, who co-invented the first electronic digital computer, dies of cancer in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, at 76.

June 19
Group Capt. Peter Townsend, the World War II fighter pilot barred from marrying Princess Margaret in the 1950s, dies in France at age 80.

June 23
Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the first vaccine to halt polio's crippling rampage, dies of heart failure in La Jolla, California, at 80.

June 25
Nobel laureate Ernest Walton, who helped usher in the nuclear age when in 1932 he and John Cockcroft split an atom; dies at age 91 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

June 29
Lana Turner, whose discovery

at a soda fountain became the stuff Hollywood dreams are made of, dies at 75 in Century City, California.

July 4
Actress Eva Gabor, youngest of the celebrated Gabor sisters, dies in Los Angeles from respiratory distress and other infections. She was 74.

July 16
Mordechai Gur, who led the capture of the Temple Mount in the Six Day War, kills himself in Tel Aviv at 65. He suffered from cancer.

July 23
Kees Verwey, the last of the major Dutch impressionist painters, dies in Haarlem, Netherlands, after a short illness at 95.

August 4
Ida Lupino, the actress who starred with Humphrey Bogart in *High Sierra*, dies of cancer in Burbank, California, at 77.

August 9
Jerry Garcia, who led the Grateful Dead since the psychedelic 1960s, dies in Novato, Calif., of a heart attack at 33; Milton Katz, a legal scholar who helped oversee the rebuilding of Europe after World War II as head of the Marshall Plan, dies of cardiac arrest at 87 in Brookline, Massachusetts.

August 13
Mickey Mantle, baseball star of the New York Yankees, dies from liver cancer in Dallas. He was 63.

August 17
Howard Koch, who won an Oscar for the *Casablanca* screenplay and wrote the *War of the Worlds* radio script that convinced thousands of listeners Martians had landed, dies of pneumonia in Woodstock, New York. He was 93.

August 21
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, who won the Nobel Prize for a theory that led to today's conception of black holes, dies of a heart attack in Chicago at 84.

September 10
Actor Charles Denner, best known for his portrayal of *The Man Who Loved Women* in the Francois Truffaut film of that name, dies in Dreux, France, at 69.

September 12
Olga Ivinskaya, longtime companion of author Boris Pasternak and the model for Lara in his novel, *Doctor Zhivago*, is buried in Moscow. She was 82; Jeremy Brett, the actor who brought the legendary detective Sherlock Holmes to life on television, dies of heart failure in London at 59.

September 17
Rabbi Yehuda Meir Getz, the rabbi of the Western Wall, dies of a heart attack in Jerusalem. He was 71.

October 8
John Cairncross, the so-called

"fifth man" in the ring of spies recruited at Cambridge University in the 1930s to work for Moscow, dies in western England at 82.

October 9
Kuljit Pramoji, who played a Southeast Asian premier opposite Marlon Brando in *The Ugly American*, then became Thailand's prime minister years later, dies in Bangkok of a combination of heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes at 84; Sir Alec Douglas-Home (Lord Home), the last of the blue bloods to lead Britain's Conservative Party, dies in Berkshire, Scotland, at 92.

October 10
Maverick Italian businessman Paolo Gucci, who was sacked from the global fashion empire started by his grandfather, dies in London at 64.

November 4
Yitzhak Rabin assassinated in Tel Aviv at age 73. Prominent French philosopher, writer and university professor Gilles Deleuze commits suicide by leaping from the window of his Paris apartment. He was 70.

November 7
John Patrick, the Pulitzer-prize winning author of *Teahouse of the August Moon*, and screenplays for such films as *High Society* and *Love Is a Many Splendored Thing*, is found dead at 90 in Delray Beach, Florida. The death was ruled suicide.

November 8
Neil Blaney, Ireland's longest-serving lawmaker and a prominent critic of British rule in Northern Ireland, dies in a Dublin hospital at 73.

November 11
Jean-Louis Curtis, whose novel *Forests of the Night* won him France's highest literary prize, dies of a heart attack in a Paris hospital at 78.

November 11
Charles Scribner Jr., the longtime head of Charles Scribner's Sons book publishing company who was once Ernest Hemingway's personal editor, dies of pneumonia in New York. He was 74.

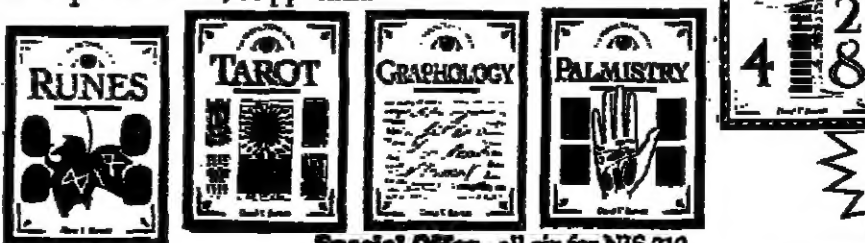
November 14
Jack Finney, whose novels included the cult classics *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and *Time and Again*, dies of pneumonia in Greenbrae, California, at 84.

November 23
Filmmaker Louis Malle, whose movies included *Atlantic City* and *Au Revoir Les Enfants*, dies of cancer in Beverly Hills, California, at 63.

December 25
Entertainer Dean Martin, one-time partner of comedian Jerry Lewis, dies of respiratory failure at his home in Beverly Hills, California. He was 78.

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Elgar: Symphony no. 2

Concert no. 4

Concert no. 3 Series A

Concert no. 4 Series B

Bosnian weather holds up NATO bridge builders

KURT SCHORK
SARAJEVO

NATO's Bosnia mission suffered twin setbacks yesterday when freezing weather blocked completion of a vital bridge, and an American soldier was wounded by a mine, the first US casualty of the mission.

The US commander in Bosnia, General William Nash, told his exhausted troops at the Zupanja construction site that the pontoon bridge over the river Sava would not open until today.

This was 24 hours later than the deadline set by US generals overseeing the construction of the vital link between US rear bases in Germany and the planned American headquarters at Tuzla, northern Bosnia.

Mud, floods, snow and ice have dogged army engineers trying to bridge the Sava, which forms the border between Croatia and Bosnia. Earlier yesterday, NATO Supreme Commander US General George Joulwan promised it would open that day.

The 300-meter span is the key to the deployment of 20,000 US troops in northeast Bosnia as part of NATO's Implementation Force (IFOR) supervising the Dayton peace accords ending 3½ years of war between Muslims, Croats and Serbs.

"I doubt we will cross forces today. I think we're fast approaching the point that we [don't] want to do it," General Pat O'Neal told reporters at Zupanja, eastern Croatia.

At the noon deadline, engineers still had 100 meters of the Sava to cross as Chinook helicopters plopped sections of pontoon into the whirling flood waters.

The army said spanning the



US troops labor in freezing conditions to move a section of the pontoon bridge over the River Sava into position. The weather prevented them from completing the job, and the bridge is due to be completed today. (Reuters)

Sava is its biggest operational engineering project since American forces used 400 meters of pontoons to bridge the Rhine at the German town of Remagen in March 1945.

An American soldier was wounded when his vehicle driver over by a mine in north Bosnia, the first US casualty of the

NATO peacekeeping deployment, US officials said.

The soldier, whose name and injuries were not disclosed, was flown to Zupanja.

"The doctors say he is in a stable condition," Major Garry Dorman said. The man was wounded at Bijela, between Srebrenik and Gradacac in northeast

Bosnia, where US troops are being deployed with IFOR.

NATO and US officials continued efforts to reconcile Bosnian Serbs to the terms of the peace agreement, which has left many of them feeling cheated.

The Serbs' main grievance is the loss of the suburbs where they lived in Sarajevo and which are

due to revert to the control of the Moslem-led Bosnian government.

The NATO commander in Bosnia, Admiral Leighton Smith, turned down a request by a separatist Serb leader to delay the transfer of Serb-held Sarajevo suburbs to government control, NATO said. (Reuters)

US budget talks continue in shutdown's 12th day

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton and congressional leaders held a second straight day of balanced-budget talks yesterday, but a partisan Senate quarrel left the government partially shut in a deepening crisis.

As the closedown affected increasing numbers of Americans, the president and Republican leaders said they were hopeful of returning federal employees to work quickly and negotiating a seven-year balanced budget plan.

"I think we made a good start yesterday, we're making progress, and I believe we need to open the government. I hope we can agree to do all that," Clinton said before the White House meeting began.

"We're going to be in very late, late into the evening," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. "The president said he's planning on feeding us tonight."

While the leaders talked, many Americans felt the consequences of a partial shutdown that began its 15th day yesterday. The problems are ranging far beyond the well-publicized closings of na-

tional parks and Smithsonian museums.

Processing of Federal Housing Administration mortgages has been halted. Passports are not being issued. Some veterans' benefits cannot be processed. Contractors handling claims for Medicare, the health program primarily for the elderly, will not be paid and federal funds to states for Medicaid, the health program for the poor, will be limited.

Some states are preparing to close unemployment offices, because they exhausted their federal funds.

The Social Security Administration has stopped processing new or replacement Social Security numbers. Federally funded hazardous waste cleanup work is about to halt.

While a balanced-budget agreement may require days to iron out differences over Medicare, Medicaid, discretionary spending and other issues, lawmakers could move quickly to return 280,000 furloughed employees to work.

Major: MP's defection won't force early election

LONDON (Reuters) - Prime Minister John Major said yesterday that he would not call a general election before 1997, but a British bookmaker slashed the odds for an early poll after a leading parliamentarian defected to an opposition party.

Former Conservative Party vice chairwoman Emma Nicholson rocked Major's government on Friday when she announced her move to the Liberal Democrats, claiming the government had lurched to the right and she could no longer support it.

As the government's already thin majority dwindled and the possibility of an election before May 1997 increased, bookmaker William Hill cut the odds of an October election from 6-1 to 9-2 and a November poll from 7-1 to

6-1 at their 1,500 betting shops. Nicholson's defection shocked the Conservatives, and reduced their parliamentary majority to five, or three without the support of "whippers" Conservative Sir Richard Body.

Body, who resigned from the parliamentary party in protest against European Union fishing policy, said yesterday he would support the Conservatives in any vote of confidence.

Despite his slim majority, Major said his party would soldier on.

"I was elected to do a particular job," he said in an interview with BBC radio. "I would expect to complete that job and I would expect to go through to 1997. That is my stated intention and that's what I intend to do."

FBI tracked Oswald in Switzerland in early 1960s

WASHINGTON (AP) - The FBI was so interested in Lee Harvey Oswald that it enlisted the help of Switzerland's federal police to track his whereabouts after he left the United States in 1959, federal records show.

... pertinent information was furnished to the Swiss Federal Police on 6/16/60 and they were requested to conduct [an] investigation in Switzerland in accordance with the bureau's request," read a memorandum on Oswald, sent from the US Embassy in Paris to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover on July 27, 1960.

The memorandum was among five documents released Thursday by the Assassination Records Review Board, which is compiling records related to President Kennedy's assassination.

The documents were previously available, but with large sections blocked out. The FBI initially tried to block their release but relented after the board obtained the consent of the Swiss government.

Previously released documents indicate the FBI's interest in Oswald. But the latest batch reveals the steps taken to track Oswald's activities after his 1959 defection to the former Soviet Union.

Oswald's mother, Marguerite Oswald of Fort Worth, Texas, had told the FBI that three letters she had written her son since January 22, 1960, had been returned undelivered.

She had also received a letter addressed to Oswald from Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland, indicating that he was expected there on April 20, 1960.

Queen issues New Year's honors list

LONDON (AP) - Queen Elizabeth II is bestowing her New Year's honors on singer Elton John, who has given millions to AIDS research, and Stella Rimington, the first woman to head Britain's M15 intelligence service.

The queen's New Year's Honors list, announced yesterday, also singles out for commendation hundreds of people unknown outside their local communities who are nominated by admirers for their service.

The list is compiled by the government, and this year recognizes 1,036 people with honors ranging from life peerages to medals for community service. Recipients this year also include politicians, a TV soap star, show business personalities, artists, industrialists and athletes.

The queen presents the awards personally. Though they include no material reward, they are a matter of great pride to recipients, who receive a medal and, often, a title.

Rimington, who retires soon, becomes a dame, the female equivalent of a knighthood. When she took over the M15 in 1991, Rimington became the first chief of the intelligence service to be publicly identified. The government only officially acknowl-

edged the existence of the agency in 1989.

Under her, M15 broadened its scope into fighting organized crime and taking a bigger role in shadowing the Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland.

Mountaineer Chris Bonington, who has led four Everest expeditions, was knighted.

Elton John, 48, was honored "for services to music and for charitable services." He received a lesser award, a CBE, or Commander of the Order of British Empire.

Also chosen from the entertainment world was impresario Cameron Mackintosh, who received a knighthood. He has managed some of Britain's most successful modern musical shows, including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Carousel*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables* and *Cats*.

Also receiving a CBE is director Nicolas Roeg, whose films range from *Performance*, and *Don't Look Now*, to the recent *Insignificance* and *Witness*. Ken Adam, who won an Oscar for best art direction in the film, *The Madness of King George*, received an Order of British Empire.

An OBE also went to the Rev. Wilbert Awdry, 84, who created the classic *Thomas the Tank Engine* children's stories half a century ago.

1995 executions in US highest in 38 years

WASHINGTON (AP) - Fifty-six convicted killers were executed in the United States this year, the highest national figure for capital punishment since 1957.

And with more than 3,000 men and women on death rows awaiting execution, the prospect for 1996 is an even higher total.

"The trend is fewer legal protections and there's a sentiment towards speeding up the process," said Richard Dieter of the Death Penalty Information Center. His Washington-based research group is concerned about inequities in how capital punishment is meted out.

Of the 38 states with death penalty laws, 16 carried out executions in 1995.

They were led by Texas, which executed 19 people. Missouri was a distant second with six.

"We're No. 1," said Larry Fitzgerald of the Texas Department

of Criminal Justice. "It reflects the attitude of the Texas electorate. We've got a tough-on-crime state and aggressive prosecutors."

Such leadership is not a recent development. Since the Supreme Court ended a four-year moratorium on capital punishment in 1976, there have been 313 US executions - 104 in Texas.

Today, 411 men and six women are on Texas death rows. Fifteen are scheduled to die by next May, and Fitzgerald says at least five of those people are "excellent candidates" whose various appeals have traveled through state and federal courts for years.

No one has a definitive explanation for why the 1995 total of 56 executions is comparatively so high. There were 31 carried out in 1994, 38 in 1993, 31 in 1992, 14 in 1991 and 23 in 1990.

The 193 executions so far in the

1990s already surpass the 117 carried out in the 1980s. There were three in the 1970s; 191 in the 1960s.

With some regularity since 1984, death-penalty advocates and abolitionists both have sounded "flood gates are opening" predictions. All have proved premature.

But Dieter and Fitzgerald agree the indicators now point to a significant increase in the pace of executions. Among them:

- Moves by Congress to change laws governing state prisoners' access to federal courts.

- The end to federally funded law offices to help with death row appeals.

- Revisions by some states to speed the appellate process in capital cases.

"There seems to be an impatience, a call for finality," Dieter said.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Last Yemeni prisoners leave Eritrea
ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) - A Red Cross plane left Eritrea yesterday with the last group of Yemeni prisoners captured in fighting over Red Sea islands. Ethiopian airline officials, contacted by telephone at Asmara airport, said the group left for Yemen at 2 p.m. About 100 Yemenis had left earlier yesterday on a previous flight. Eritrea says it captured 213 Yemenis - 196 soldiers and 17 civilians - when it seized Greater Hanish island in fierce fighting earlier this month.

Fourth bomb in 24 hours hits Corsica
AJACCIO, Corsica (Reuters) - The fourth bomb in 24 hours tore through a government office on Corsica yesterday, extending a spate of attacks on the French Mediterranean island where separatists want increased autonomy.

Death toll rises in fighting with Kurd rebels
SIVAS, Turkey (AP) - Government troops yesterday kept up their attack on Kurdish rebels in the eastern mountains, said Turkish news reports, putting the death toll at 13 in three days of fighting. The clashes marked the first time the military has moved its fight to Sivas province, 450 kilometers from the capital Ankara.

London worker goes on stabbing rampage
LONDON (Reuters) - Police said a British supermarket worker was charged yesterday with stabbing 10 people after running amok in the store where he worked. The 22-year-old unidentified man faced 10 counts of attempted murder and one count of attempted wounding following the attack yesterday in the store in the central England city of Birmingham.

Pope back for Sunday noon appearance
VATICAN CITY (AP) - After a bout with the flu, Pope John Paul II will be back in Rome to give his customary Sunday noon blessing to the public, the Vatican said.

Poll: Quebecers back independence
TORONTO (Reuters) - Two months after narrowly rejecting separation from Canada, a majority of Quebecers now favor independence for the French-speaking province, according to a new opinion poll published yesterday.
The December 17 poll of 500 Quebec voters found 55 percent of respondents answered yes when asked if they wanted Quebec to separate from Canada and become an independent country. Forty-five percent opposed independence.

'Four planes in NE China spot UFOs'
BEIJING (AP) - Four airplanes flying over northeast China at around the same time spotted one or more UFOs, a newspaper reported yesterday.
The captain of a Northern Airlines flight from Harbin to Beijing radioed in the first report at around 5:45 p.m. on December 4, the News Report said. He saw "a white oval UFO traveling about 15 kilometers a minute" (900 kph) near his flight path, the newspaper said, citing a report from the Civil Aviation Administration's Northeast Aviation Center.
He later reported that the UFO "turned green and followed the airplane's flight path." The captain of another civil airplane radioed in to report seeing the same thing, while two other airplanes spotted red or yellow UFOs.

Grateful Dead - still alive
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Despite word last month that the Grateful Dead had disbanded after Jerry Garcia's death, three surviving members of the legendary band will keep playing. Bob Weir, Mickey Hart and Vince Welnick say they'll tour this summer with their own groups and guests, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Friday. And other projects are possible, including a new Dead album and an extensive box set of their music.

Urgent medical care the American way

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

JERUSALEMITES can be forgiven for their apathy to Health Minister Ephraim Sneh's announcement that health funds must provide round-the-clock, low-priced urgent medical care. Capital residents have had access to such services since the TEREM Urgent Medical Care Center opened at the Magen David Adom station in the Romema quarter in 1990.

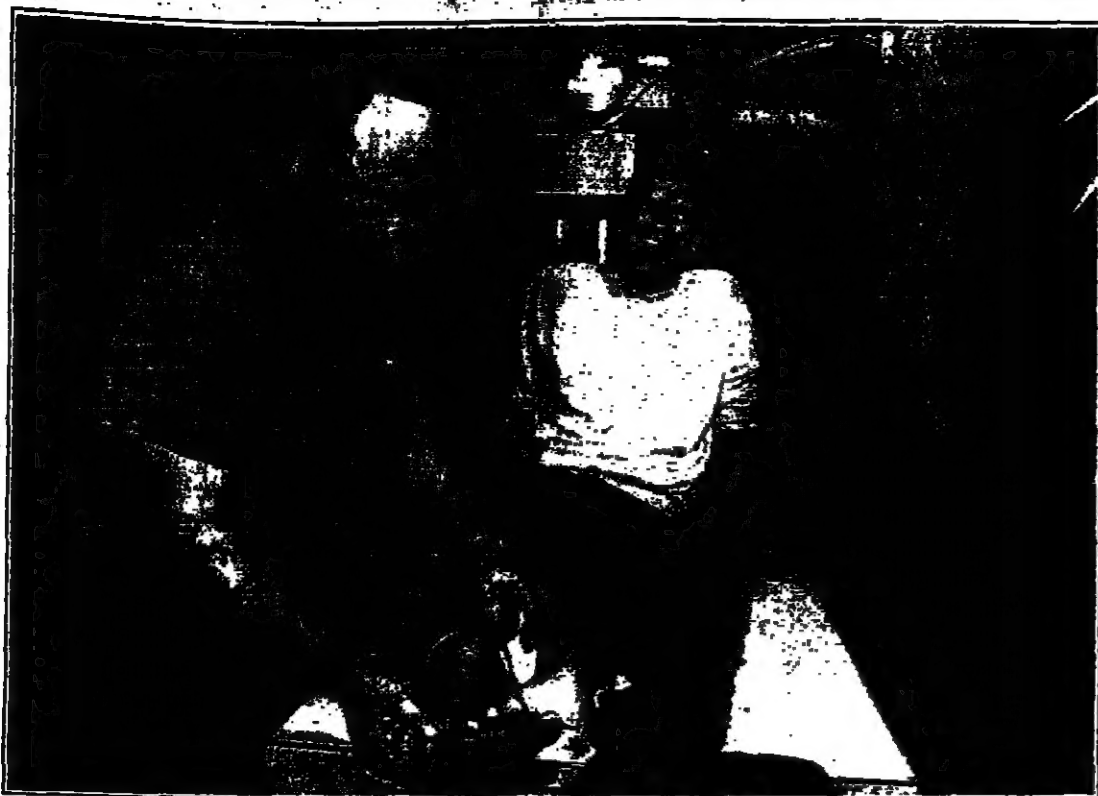
Now TEREM, a private service that promises no more than a 20-minute wait 90 percent of the time, has invested hundreds of thousands of shekels to triple its floor space, modernize and add high-tech equipment to deal with most types of emergencies. Sneh praised TEREM medical director Dr. David Applebaum for making it an outstanding "model of efficient medical care."

Applebaum, a native of Cleveland, is one of only seven Israelis to have been accredited by the prestigious American Board of Emergency Medicine; two of the others work for TEREM. He previously was deputy head of Shaare Zedek Hospital's emergency department and ran the MDA's mobile intensive care units for many years.

"We'd like to expand and open additional branches, but we'll do so only when we're sure we have enough highly qualified urgent-care specialists to make this possible," Applebaum says.

Before TEREM started renting space at MDA's Jerusalem branch, urgent medical care from MDA doctors and medics was available on the premises from evening until late at night. But since the first-aid and blood-supply organization has long been starved for cash, little money was invested in it and queues were long. Many patients rushed to hospital emergency rooms.

APPLEBAUM SAW the potential for an American-style, urgent medical care center in the capital. Today, TEREM - which has a smaller branch in the Maccabi health fund clinic in Ma'aleh



TEREM medical director Dr. David Applebaum, seen treating a patient, is one of only seven Israelis to have been accredited by the prestigious American Board of Emergency Medicine.

Adumim - is the only such private center in the country to be open 24 hours a day. MDA has leased space to private clinics in Tel Aviv, Ramat-Lod, Holon and a Haifa suburb that operate part of the night.

TEREM-Jerusalem has treated 200,000 patients since 1990, 50,000 this year alone. That is equal to all the emergency-room patients treated in 1995 at Shaare Zedek and Bikur Holim Hospitals. Hospitals don't fear the competition; emergency rooms were meant to deal with really sick individuals who need in-patient follow-up care. Over the years, Israelis have come to regard emergency rooms as places to get care for non-urgent problems to avoid long waits at health fund clinics. TEREM significantly reduces the emergency rooms' patient load.

"We are able to provide urgent care very efficiently," says Applebaum. The airy, modern center offers physical exams, x-rays and ultrasound scans; blood and urine tests; treatment of broken bones and sprains; opening of abscesses; and a variety of other procedures.

"TEREM provides excellent treatment for a wide range of acute conditions affecting children and adults," says Jerusalem MDA director Avraham Halberberg. "It has improved the emergency medical care available to Jerusalemites. TEREM is a great success."

"We deliver a baby about once a year and occasionally do cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but we aren't meant for that," Apple-

baum notes. "We refer only about 5 percent of patients to hospital emergency rooms, mostly for appendicitis and heart attack cases, but we're able to carry out preliminary tests that save a lot of time in the hospital later."

THE EXPANSION provided space for an observation room where patients can be watched for several hours instead of being transferred to an emergency room. In addition to a baby-delivery kit, TEREM always has a ring-cutting. "This is very vital when someone injures a finger, which swells [causing] gangrene if the ring isn't removed," Applebaum says.

The TEREM staff includes three emergency-medicine specialists, six internal-medicine specialists, six family-medicine specialists, two pediatricians, one gynecologist, two infectious diseases experts, one orthopedist, one radiologist, and 17 registered nurses and paramedics. They include Moslem Arabs and a Christian who runs the center on Shabbat and holidays.

TEREM has contracts with all four health funds. More than 40 percent of patients are Menuchem members, who, along with Leumi members, pay NIS 40 for treatment. Chit members may be treated when the fund's Magen (immediate medical care) clinic is closed from 10 p.m. to midnight to 7 a.m., and pay NIS 132, of which NIS 72 is reimbursed. Maccabi members may go anytime and pay NIS 30.

The total fees, including the health funds' participation, are

set by the Health Ministry, requiring TEREM to avoid waste. "We pay our staff a decent wage, not an exaggerated one," Applebaum says. "Also, our emergency-medicine specialists have a broad medical repertoire, unlike the hospitals, which have to call specialists down from the wards to deal with certain cases."

TEREM staffers know not to waste medical equipment. "In the hospitals, if a patient requires only a small piece of sutures, they throw out the remainder. We keep it sterile and use what's left for the next patient," the medical director says.

The most dangerous time of the week in Jerusalem is Friday afternoons. "We see a lot of women with cut fingers who rushed to prepare the Shabbat meals. One hardy woman came an hour before Shabbat with a baby carriage full of food and other items, saying she was sure she'd have to spend Shabbat at the center. We fixed her up, and a non-Jewish doctor drove her home just before the Sabbath."

Children with fractures or burns, or cuts from playing with artist's knives, who are left unsupervised during pre-Shabbat preparations are also frequent patients on Fridays.

Located on the edge of haredi Jerusalem, TEREM is frequently visited by religious patients who walk over for help on Shabbat. "Most know when it's a real emergency and they should call for an ambulance, but there have rarely been cases of real negligence, when patients failed to seek urgent care on Shabbat."

Ministry manages to 'lose' top-notch legal adviser

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH



Shalev: I won't stay where I'm not wanted. (Isaac Harari)

IT isn't easy for the Health Ministry to attract a senior lawyer willing to work as its legal adviser, since a private practice is much more lucrative than a government position. But once the ministry did manage to snag one, it lost her - for unexplained reasons - six months after she took the job.

Dr. Carmel Shalev, a graduate of Yale University and Hebrew University, and previously a highly respected Justice Ministry lawyer, suddenly resigned from her Health Ministry post two weeks ago after realizing that its director-general, Dr. Meir Oren, was trying to get rid of her.

"I won't stay where I'm not wanted," she says, after tendering her resignation. "Health ministries around the world are exciting places for a lawyer, because the medical field and the legal implications are extremely dynamic. The ministry, and especially the National Health Insurance Law that it is charged with implementing, affect the lives of all Israelis, and I wanted to have an influence on these policies."

In the Justice Ministry, Shalev was in charge of all legal dealings with the Health Ministry, and then was brought into the Health Ministry as a professional adviser on the national health insurance bill by then-minister Haim Ramon. Shalev did so well that she was named legal adviser - one of the top legal posts in the government - to replace the long-time legal department head Dr. Zvi Levine, who was retiring.

But two department staffers who wanted the job fought the appointment in labor court for nearly a year and lost. Last June, she was finally named ministry legal adviser, working for Ramon's successor, Ephraim Sneh, and Oren.

The department she inherited from Levine was in a shambles. Even ministry spokesmen didn't bother to conceal the fact that it barely functioned. The department, with its 10 lawyers and eight administrative personnel, was known for being extrajudicially slow.

Impossible to fire because of civil-service tenure, some staffers also suffered from "bad habits," such as failing to answer mail or return phone calls. Legal reports summarizing ministry positions, which staffers were asked to pass on to other ministries or the police, were often handed over with

only brief comments instead of a learned legal argument.

"I asked to be linked to a legal database and a computer - basic tools for a lawyer - but they still haven't arrived," says Shalev in an interview after tendering her resignation.

Shalev managed to greatly improve the atmosphere and functioning in the ministry (many expressed shock and grief at her resignation), but the condition of the department was not the reason for her leaving.

She says she handed in her letter of resignation after learning that Oren "intended to replace her." The director-general, she says, "harassed" her with "petty things," including demands that she account for her hours at work. "I have worked many 14-hour days and put in seven days a week. I wanted to raise the respect for the legal department," Shalev says.

The ministry even consulted with a private lawyer, Baruch Avrahami - who serves as legal adviser of the ministry's rubber-stamp "National Health Council" established as a part of the national health insurance system - instead of asking for Shalev's opinions.

The council, which Sneh chairs, has a NIS 5 million annual budget, but has met in plenary only three times for a few hours over the past year (the third session on December 26), even

though the law requires it to be convened at least four times a year. And Sneh only nominated a health insurance ombudsman the same day, a year after the council's establishment, even though such a job is specifically required by law.

"My conception of the legal adviser's job is apparently different than that of the minister and director-general," she explains. "They see the legal adviser as an obstacle to getting things done the way they want. I saw myself as being bound to serve them professionally and advise them on what they can and cannot do under the rule of law."

Shalev's resignation, effective immediately but leaving her on the payroll until March 12, has been kept quiet in the ministry. Nevertheless, she has already been inundated with job offers.

Asked to explain the Shalev resignation, the director-general would only say that "the decision to end her service was Dr. Carmel Shalev's, and this was still during her trial period in the job." He added that the ministry consulted with lawyer Avrahami "a few times" as part of his connection to the National Health Council.

Contrary to popular and media opinion, Shalev says the National Health Insurance Law is a "wonderful" piece of legislation. "It's unfortunate that the ministry does such a poor job at public relations, so that the public would realize how wonderful the law is," she says. "Other countries, such as the US, envy us for the high level of health care available to all. We have to be patient, as certain things have to be carried out."

The ministry's plans to turn the government hospitals into public hospital corporations and eliminate its own role as a provider of health services are bogged down by union opposition, Shalev says. Although this major change was supposed to have been equal in importance to the establishment of a national health insurance system, there is no indication when, if ever, these reforms will be carried out.

The ministry is overwhelmed with so many critical tasks that it would be better off freed of the burden of providing services.

"It could then concentrate on supervising them, ensuring quality control, patients' rights and equal access to services," Shalev says.

Urination is often more frequent in the winter

Rx FOR READERS

POST HEALTH REPORTER

I am a 78-year-old man. Why is it that in the winter I have to urinate more frequently and to a greater extent than in the summer, when I drink more to the heat? S.D., Haifa.

Prof. Ciro Servadio, head of the urology department at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva, replies:

It is possible that you have a urological problem. However, in general, it is common that people urinate more often in the winter than the summer. In the heat, people excrete water through their skin by perspiration, and often they are not even aware of it. They have to drink much more in the summer to produce the same amount of urine in the summer as in the winter.

In addition, the nerves connected to the bladder that give the feeling that one has to urinate tend to become more sensitive as one gets older. In young, healthy people, the nerves send a message to the brain about the need to urinate when the bladder contains 300 or 400 milliliters of urine. But older men and women often find it harder to control their bladder, and this seems to be more common in winter than in summer.

I know that boiling vegetables in a lot of water destroys most of their nutrients and vitamins. But does microwaving them keep as many vitamins and minerals as those that are steamed in a little water? I.T., Ramat Gan.

Prina Stein, deputy head of the dieticians' service at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, answers:

You are right that cooking vegetables in a lot of water flushes many of the vitamins and minerals out, but drinking the water or making it into a sauce can reduce this loss. Steaming protects these nutrients even more. Microwave cooking is even better if it is for a short time.



using a wok is the best: you use only a little bit of oil and toss vegetables for a couple of minutes and most of the nutrients are preserved.

My husband and I are both 78. For about an hour before breakfast, we go for a run and a swim, and do a few exercises. But when we get up in the morning, we have very stiff and often painful back muscles. The stiffness and pain disappear after our exercise, but we would like to know the cause and any way to avoid them. S.H.-C., Netanya.

Dr. Yoni Yarom, head of sports medicine at the Wingate Institute for Physical Education, comments:

I would suggest that you check the mattress. Many elderly people get attached to their mattress and don't replace it when it gets worn and too soft. The fact that your stiffness clears up after exercise hints that this is the problem. But if my advice doesn't help, go to an orthopedist for an examination.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Technique lets woman with rare blood disease have healthy twins

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

ADVANCED medical techniques have allowed a 42-year-old Russian immigrant woman with a very high concentration of baby-hostile antibodies in her blood to give birth to healthy twin boys.

The highly unusual case involved a woman who had a healthy child in Russia when married to her first husband. The next pregnancy resulted in a stillbirth, while the third died a few days after birth due to the conflict between the mother's Rh-blood and the baby's Rh+ blood.

In Israel, it is conventional practice to vaccinate with immunoglobulins all pregnant women with Rh- blood whose husband is RH+ (like 85% of the population): this is performed at the 28th week of a pregnancy or after a miscarriage. But in Russia, this is rarely carried out, thus immigrant women in this situation often arrive with a very high concentration of antigens in their blood that - due to previous pregnancies - attack the red cells of the fetus and cause severe anemia.

The woman and her second husband were referred to Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital because of the man's fertility problem. Doctors used micromanipulation, in which the man's weak sperm are "shot" into individual ova to boost the chances for conception. Five embryos were implanted into her uterus, of which three established themselves, but one stopped developing. But as the pregnancy developed, the doctors found she had one of the highest level of Rh attacking antibodies ever measured in an Israeli woman. If the babies were to survive, drastic action had to be taken.

An unusual genetic-engineering technique developed at the molecular biology unit at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus was used to determine that the husband was a heterozygote - he had two different genes at the same place on matched chromosomes. This meant there was a serious risk that one or both of the twins would be seriously harmed by the Rh problem. An amniocentesis exam showed that both fetuses had Rh+ blood

that would be attacked by the mother's high level of antibodies.

The Sheba doctors decided to "wash" all the woman's blood in a process called plasmapheresis to remove as many antibodies as possible. She also received immunoglobulins - a very expensive treatment covered by the Maccabi health fund. Every two or three weeks, she underwent amniocentesis to check on the fetus' condition. A few weeks ago, the two boys were born by cesarean section, weighing 1.8 and 2.2 kilos and with only light-to-moderate anemia. She and the boys are doing well, and their blood will not have to be "exchanged."

POSSIBLE SOLUTION FOR PAINKILLER COMPLICATIONS

A University of London pharmaceutical expert has warned about the overuse of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including aspirin, ibuprofen and Voltaren. At an international seminar on rheumatic diseases held recently in Tel Aviv, Prof. David Eisenberg said that in Britain alone, 20 million prescriptions for NSAIDs are filled each year, mostly for rheumatic pain, sports injuries and gynecological discomfort. But while they are very helpful, they can cause bleeding in the gastrointestinal system and damage to the liver and kidneys. At highest risk are women over the age of 65 with a history of ulcers and heart disease. It would be better to take them off the drugs, he said, "but what can you do when they are in insufferable pain?"

One possible solution is to combine NSAID treatment with another drug, misoprostol, a synthetic prostaglandin that protects the gastrointestinal system from damage. "The question now is whether to allow high-risk patients to take the drugs together," said Eisenberg, who called for an effort to determine whether this is the best way to treat such patients.

CONFUSION ON ANTIBIOTICS

A quarter of those surveyed in a telephone poll thought that Moxypen (the trade name for the commonly used antibiotic amoxicillin) is an over-the-counter drug not requiring a doctor's prescrip-



tion. The poll, commissioned by Telem, the roof organization of pharmaceutical companies for increasing the number of over-the-counter drugs, also found that Acamol (paracetamol) is the best-known medication, followed by Optalgin (pain reliever), Col-dex (cold remedy) and Centrum (vitamins).

Two-thirds of those surveyed read the accompanying leaflet in packages of medications, but women were more likely to do so than men. Young people aged 18 to 29 and old people were least likely to read these leaflets.

Telem chairman Ze'ev Bieber said the demand for over-the-counter drugs is increasing due to the increase in longevity and income, growing number of private pharmacies and chain stores, and rise in education.

Some 12 percent of all drugs are sold without prescription, mostly in private pharmacies, at a total value of \$53 million a year. The average Israeli spends \$11 a year on over-the-counter drugs, compared with \$48 per capita in the US. Most of this money goes to buy vitamins, painkillers and skin preparations.

PACIFIERS AND EAR INFECTIONS

Try to wean babies from their pacifiers at the age of 10 months: children who continue to use them beyond that age face a significantly greater risk of ear infections than those who give them up, according to research at Finland's University of Oulu published in *Pediatrics*. Ear infections are not common in babies less than 10 months old.

The Finnish researchers spent over a year studying 845 babies and toddlers attending day-care centers. Nearly a third of those under the age of two who sucked pacifiers developed at least three

ear infections a year compared with 21 percent of those who didn't suck on pacifiers. Two- and three-year-olds who used pacifiers were three times as likely as non-users their age to get repeated infections.

It is not completely clear why pacifiers may increase the risk of ear infections, but the researchers note that sucking increases the drooling of saliva, which could increase the spread of viral respiratory infections, often followed by ear infections in toddlers.

NEW KEYHOLE SURGERY USE

A woman in her 20s suffering from a tumor on her adrenal glands has become the first in Israel to have it removed by laparoscopy ("keyhole surgery"). A growth larger than four centimeters on the gland has to be removed even if it is not malignant because such tumors tend to become cancerous, according to Prof. Elihu Entebi of the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus. Even smaller growths are often removed surgically because they may cause hypertension.

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The Palestinian elections

PEACE Watch, a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to monitor the implementation of Israel's agreements with the PLO, has a penchant for understatement. Its most recent press release about the preparations for the Palestinian elections on January 20 says: "A number of steps taken in the last several weeks indicate potential problems with the democratic character of the campaign and election."

In this case, the use of "understatement" may be misplaced. Making a travesty of the much-touted "democratic elections" in the territories is not just a routine violation of the Oslo agreements. It is an ominous foretaste of what Israel may expect from the entity next door.

Not that the appearance of such "potential problems" is a surprise. Ever since it assumed power in Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian Authority has acted as a police state. But if the Palestinians receive world approval for a rigged election, Israel will have to reconcile itself to the permanence of a PLO-Hamas police state on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

The elections will not be rigged in the sense that ballot boxes will be stuffed, or that voters will be intimidated at the voting booths. Today's dictators are too sophisticated to employ such crudities. With international observers present it is much easier and safer not to commit egregious frauds on election day but to make certain that only the "right" candidates appear on the ballot. To further guarantee that even these candidates, once elected, will not become too independent, they are rendered powerless by a super-imposed governing body hand-picked by the dictator.

This is precisely what PA Chairman Yasser Arafat is doing. As the Peace Watch release puts it, "Although Fatah, the dominant party headed by Arafat, held internal elections in several districts to determine its list of candidates, Arafat reordered the results, insisting that certain candidates be dropped from the list and that others be added in their place." (The changes, say Peace Watch sources, "were so sweeping that many Fatah activists threatened a 'minor mutiny.'") But the mutineers have obviously had second thoughts. And since the 16 electoral districts have been gerrymandered to ensure an overwhelming Fatah majority, the council is certain to be dominated by Arafat's hand-picked deputies.

According to Peace Watch, the Fatah leadership has not yet succeeded in persuading the few non-Fatah candidates to agree to "joint lists," which would give Arafat total control over who will appear on the ballot. But Fatah still has three weeks to persuade these candidates to see the light.

The kind of persuasion the PA uses is hardly a secret. Even the Carter Center observer group, known for its pro-PLO sentiments, stated on December 16 that it was "concerned about serious reports of press censorship, arbitrary

detention without due process, torture, and even deaths in detention" in the PA-controlled areas.

A classic example of such tactics was provided the observers last week, although they seemed indifferent to it. As *The Jerusalem Post* revealed on Wednesday, *Al-Quds* editor Maher Alami was kidnapped from his home in Jerusalem on direct orders from Arafat and arrested by the PA's Preventive Security Police in Jericho. It was not that he had published an article against the Palestinian dictator - the paper is a down-the-line Arafat supporter - but that he had ignored Arafat's demand to publish a story and photograph on the paper's front page describing Arafat's meeting with the Greek Orthodox patriarch.

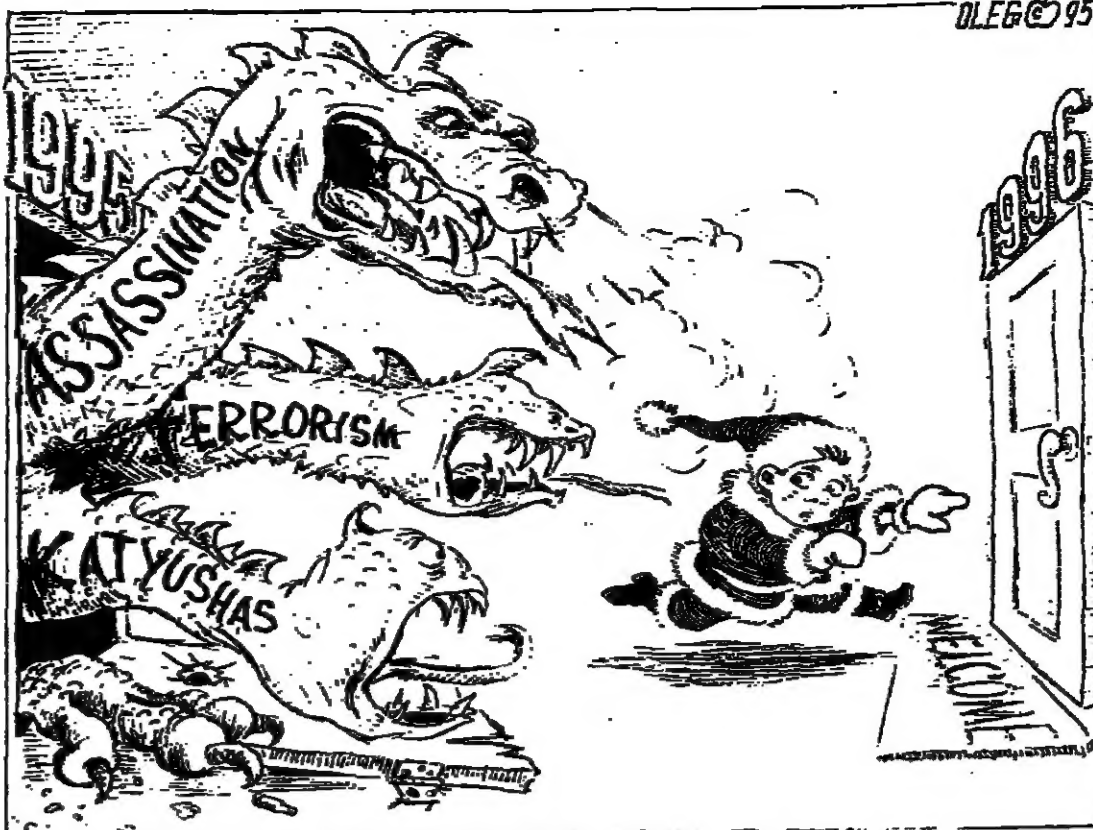
Needless to say, Arafat has seen to it that he will have no serious opposition for the post of president. The only credible Palestinian contender, former negotiations chief Haidar Abdel Shafi, has been persuaded not to run. And even more indicative of Arafat's political direction is his intention to continue giving the PLO a role that will place it above the council.

As the Peace Watch report puts it: "By maintaining the PLO's bodies, and in fact making them supreme over the Council, the Palestinians can continue to maintain the legality of the PLO's declaration of the establishment of the state of Palestine in 1988, as well as keeping a 'fall-back' body just in case the entire Oslo process collapses. One source explained that the PNC must continue to be superior to the Council, because the final status negotiations with Israel will discuss, among other matters, the issue of Palestinian refugees, and it is the PLO, and not the Council which can be fairly said to represent the refugees."

"By making use of the PLO, and especially its Executive Committee, the Ra'ees [Arafat], who will simultaneously hold the leading position in both the Council and the PLO, will have at his disposal an additional body which will be more manageable, although not democratically elected."

Retaining the PLO institutions has other ramifications, too. Had Arafat declared that the PLO will cease to exist the minute the elections for the Palestinian Council are concluded, he could have let the Council declare the PLO Covenant null and void. By retaining the PLO institutions as the supreme authority, he will need a two-thirds majority of its "parliament," the PNC, to make the necessary changes. It is doubtful that he can muster such a majority even if he wanted to do so.

The Palestinian elections are looming as a travesty of the democratic process. Yet 1,500 observers (including some from such paragons of democracy as Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, the Islamic Congress and Organization of African Unity) are about to give them an international stamp of approval. There can be no sadder commentary on the state of the world community's integrity.



Yuppie jeeps up front

AVI MACHLIS

JEOP owners all across Israel were angry last week.

Our media-hungry public was treated to the all-too-familiar scene of Bolshevik Israel invading the privacy of its citizens once more, as the IDF supposedly decided to register civilian jeeps for wartime draft.

But the story was a distortion, and the way it was reported highlights a disturbing epidemic of irresponsible journalism, raising serious questions about the far more important information we ingest as daily news.

The journalistic farce began with a humorous yet irksome front-page story in *Yedioth Aharanot*, whose headline definitively stated: "IDF decides: 'Yuppie jeeps also to be drafted in time of emergency.'"

We cynically smirked at the thought of a *cav shmona* (emergency draft notice) being presented to a luxury jeep, even more laughable was the thought of army generals trading in their olive green, open-top clunkers to drive a sparkling Land Rover or Mitsubishi up to the front, blasting the air conditioner and CD player, and oblivious to the artillery shells whistling by.

Then we watched and listened to fuming jeep-lovers on TV and radio threatening to sell their NIS 100,000 toys or commit suicide if the IDF so much as thought about coming near their babies.

Like many journalists, I was tickled by the story, and pondered the necessity of this imposing new decision during a time in which any real threat of war has been practically eradicated.

Unlike *Mabat*, Channel 2 and Israel Radio, I made a few quick phone calls, and found out the truth: There was no decision.

The IDF spokesman sent me an official statement saying that the IDF has been drafting civilian vehicles for years; the only thing new about this so-called news was the number of jeeps registered - a result of their increased popularity.

I suggest that both sages were right but they fail to give their reasons: could it have been that then, as now, there is hardly anybody in the criticism business (or should I say industry?) who is really qualified to criticize? Critics are so superficial that one either shrugs them off, disregards them or, if they have any merit at all, refutes them.

I would like to suggest that we all stop criticizing for a long while and abide by the old Swiss saying: "If everybody swept away the dirt in front of his own door, the village would be clean."

Before following my own advice, however, let me utter just one last heretic thought. I remember very well a time when the whole of Agudat Yisrael, and everybody else on its right, was vehemently against every form of Zionism, calling us apostates if not atheists, including in this epithet even the mild-mannered and Orthodox Mizrahi movement. Jakob Rosenheim, the leader of black Orthodox Agudat Yisrael, fulminated in his best Frankfurt dialect against Zionism and Zionists and threw a *herem* (ban) at their heads.

And now? Given ever the slightest of chances, the Orthodox, Agudat Yisrael, the haredim and all the rest of the fundamentalists would wrest the entire *apikorsische* country from the hands of the Unbelievers if only they could, to which an unobservant agnostic or atheist can of course only say: *Has ve-shalom*, or God forbid!

DR. BERTHOLD WYLER
Jerusalem.

and to two senior managers of jeep-importing companies. All confirmed that the noise surrounding the "decision" was a case of much ado about nothing.

But just to be sure, I examined the original story again.

Now I discovered that *Yedioth* chose to credit the story to "our military reporter," instead of providing us with the writer's name.

Apparently the paper isn't aware of a basic principle of journalism: A reporter's byline isn't a service provided to a journalist to

The news story that made the media buzz and people mad - and turned out not to be news after all

facilitate the speedy delivery of fan or hate mail. It is a stamp of professional responsibility taken for the content of a report the newspaper would like us to believe is true.

I elicited the name of the clandestine reporter, and gave her a call. Her assistant unabashedly admitted that "she exaggerated a bit."

She didn't exaggerate. She distorted a long-practiced IDF policy, packaging it as "news" which, by definition, is supposed to contain something new.

Cleverly wording the story, she tells us that "From the beginning of 1996, [jeep] owners will be required to report with their jeeps to drafting exercises."

The IDF did indeed make such a decision - many years ago, and it is true that jeep owners will be required to report in 1996, just as they were required to in this and previous years.

Her "exaggeration" helped her newspaper and the rest of Israel's media get by on a slow news day. But this contorted expose simply

exposed Israel's media, which consumed her bogus news unquestioningly, without even bothering to carry out the most elementary journalistic task: checking the facts.

The story about the IDF and jeep drafting is of minimal importance during this, one of the most trying periods in Israel's history. Little or no damage was done - unless of course, you count the mental anguish of our yuppies.

But it certainly makes one contemplate the muckraking and the countless scandals that get splashed across our tabloids (and TV screens) daily, and the fine-print apologies strategically placed deep inside.

It is precisely the insignificance of such an erroneous example of non-news being transformed into front-page news, and the speed and ease with which it was gobbled up that casts a shadow on our scoop-loving media.

Communications researchers call "what happened" "pack journalism," the news of one journalist instantly becoming the news of a herd of journalists. While pack journalism may be a fact of life, the fact that so many journalists didn't check the facts is inexcusable.

And if they couldn't get it right on such a trivial tidbit, an item which could have been confirmed or refuted by a few simple phone calls, just how do they manufacture the important news?

What is really behind the stories which demand much more, inventive and time-consuming tactics to validate assumptions and discredit misconceptions? Do the myriad anonymous senior officials quoted so frequently off the record really exist?

If we are to make decisions and formulate opinions on the swiftly changing events of our region, our press must earn our respect and continually prove its professionalism, even on the most mundane reports and petty stories.

Simultaneously, we must learn to read the news with a mature, critical and uncompromising eye.

The writer is a freelance journalist living in Jerusalem.

Free of the past

SHLOMO PHILIPSON

IN their article "An Undesirable Secret" (*The Jerusalem Post*, December 24), Gerald Caplan and Ruth Moskovitch argue the case against "closed" adoption. But the idea of "open" adoption must be nipped in the bud.

Closed adoption, in which there is no contact with the birth family, favors both adoptive parents and adopted children. It gives them the autonomy to create a new family - the only realistic option once a child has been legally removed from one situation and placed in another.

Open adoption: A nice idea that cannot work

In typically liberal fashion, the open system wishes to allow for adoption, at the same time showing respect and compassion for the biological parents.

Nice idea; but sadly, it cannot work. The new family needs the freedom from the past to create a new future for itself.

Caplan and Moskovitch treat the subject of adoption generally, thereby making a simplistic distinction between open and closed adoption.

They make the point that adoptions can be more open or less open, depending on individual circumstances - but they neglect to mention the specific dangers inherent in an open system in a country like Israel.

There are many adoptions where the baby or child was removed from home by force of law. In a country as small as this, with certain religious groups actively opposing all adoption, an open adoption system would quickly become a burden for the police department, not to mention a menace to the new family of adoptive parents and adopted children.

MY WIFE and I adopted two older siblings who had been abused, removed from their home, put in a children's home, and eventually taken legally from their birth parents.

At the time of their arrival in our Haifa home, there were strong reasons to suspect that a professional hired by an anti-adoption group might find our children.

Not only was it important for the adoption to remain closed, we even had to take measures to ensure the children's security. These were two kids who had already suffered more than their share.

Once, out on a drive in the country, we passed a road sign indicating the birthplace of our son. The anxiety that sign provoked in the child was enough to convince me that separation from his past must be total and final.

It is true that adopting infants and adopting special-needs children (including older children) are so different that the procedures in each type of adoption must differ.

In the case of older children, the "open" aspect is their memory. The closed nature of the adoption assures their complete physical separation from the past.

Our two children had older siblings whom they vaguely remembered, and whom they will probably never see again. The one younger sibling who grew up with our children was adopted by a wonderful family. That memory is kept alive and some contact is maintained.

Israeli law allows for search and contact after age 18.

Before deciding that open adoption might be preferable to the current procedure, one should witness the care and sensitivity demonstrated by the Israeli adoption agency (*Sherut Lema'an Hayeled*).

When a young person is relatively mature and the new family is well-bonded, the past can then be explored in a way that does not threaten the present or future of all concerned parties, including the birth parents.

The most that can be said of open adoption is that liberal democracies favor it because it "appears to ease the intense guilt, anxiety, and loss." As with other American products, we need to wait and see how the pendulum swings.

There is always room for an exception here and there. But the rule of closed adoption makes great sense in our small country.

The writer is a father of two children adopted at the ages of four and nine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ABSURD IDEA

Sir, - As a secular Jew who has just completed three years of service in the IDF, I must take issue with Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr regarding the nature of army service by students of Heder yeshivot.

Orr's idea of "unifying" the IDF by forcing Heder soldiers into "the same barracks and the same tents" as rank-and-file IDF personnel is absurd. Doesn't he know that Heder soldiers have different lifestyles than the rest of us in the army?

Heder troops, among the finest human material in the IDF, spend their spare time during active duty studying the Torah and reciting their daily prayers. On the other hand, my buddies and I spent most of our off-duty hours in the company of the women soldiers, either at the base disco or out in the fields.

Orr's foolish plan of compelling me and my Heder comrades to live together would constitute an unwarranted invasion of my lifestyle as well as theirs.

NIMROD BEN-HORIN
Beersheba.

UNFAIR

Sir, - Sometimes Penny Starr's sharp tongue gets the better of her. I am not a fan of Michael Jackson, but I am coming to his defense after reading Ms. Starr's column in *Time Out* of December 15. To suggest, by quoting dubious sources, that his collapse during rehearsals was a trick to hurt HBO or to obtain beautifying surgery, is to hit below the belt. His illness was apparently serious enough to require five days' treatment in intensive care.

Ms. Starr's remarks may be her attempt to beautify the fact that she really has little of value to say to her readers. Perhaps, instead of satirizing, she should emulate Mr. Jackson, who makes a living by entertaining people, not by cutting people down.

LILY HARVIT
Haifa.

PAINFUL PEACE

Sir, - Two stories you published recently tell me that peace with the Palestinians is going to be a very painful experience unless there is Divine intervention.

The first story was about the Beduin soldier who was refused a burial with the presence of an imam because he was to be buried in a coffin draped in an Israeli flag. These are people living in Israel for close to half a century, who have equal voting rights and equal access to the benefits of living in a free country, and yet are demonstratively so heartless even towards one of their own.

The second is the story about the Israeli biochemist, Rose Biblot, who is the only Jew living in Jericho. The water supply to her papaya trees has been cut off and her plea to be permitted to remain has fallen on deaf ears. This story definitely tells me that there is no hope. It is OK for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to live in Israel, but it is not OK for one Jew to live in Jericho.

It is wonderful to see 100,000 Israelis demonstrating for peace. So when are we going to witness 10 Arabs in any country surrounding Israel get together for a similar demonstration?

DR. ABRAM BER
Phoenix, Arizona.

TRASH

Sir, - I am an American travel agent who is just completing a 10-day trip in Israel. I don't understand how a people with such national pride can have so little environmental pride. Everywhere you look, there is trash and garbage: highways, beaches, historical sites, villages, everywhere.

You have a beautiful and meaningful country. I want to send people to visit it, but it is hard to understand why you don't take care of it.

BARTLETT BEALEE
Tel Aviv (Tempe, Arizona).

CRITICISM

Sir, - In his article of December 8, Moshe Kohn quotes tractate *Ara-chin* 16b: "Rabbi Tarfon said: 'I doubt that there is anyone in this generation who knows how to take criticism.'"

At the end of his article, Mr. Kohn cites Rabbi Elazar ben Azaria: "I doubt that there is anyone in this generation who knows how to give criticism."

I suggest that both sages were right but they fail to give their reasons: could it have been that then, as now, there is hardly anybody in the criticism business (or should I say industry?) who is really qualified to criticize? Critics are so superficial that one either shrugs them off, disregards them or, if they have any merit at all, refutes them.

I would like to suggest that we all stop criticizing for a long while and abide by the old Swiss saying: "If everybody swept away the dirt in front of his own door, the village would be clean."

Before following my own advice, however, let me utter just one last heretic thought. I remember very well a time when the whole of Agudat Yisrael, and everybody else on its right, was vehemently against every form of Zionism, calling us apostates if not atheists, including in this epithet even the mild-mannered and Orthodox Mizrahi movement. Jakob Rosenheim, the leader of black Orthodox Agudat Yisrael, fulminated in his best Frankfurt dialect against Zionism and Zionists and threw a *herem* (ban) at their heads.

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DR. BERTHOLD WYLER
Jerusalem.

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, December 31, 1995



Presidential Dilemma

Commingle lawyers hamper Whitewater probe

By ROBERT NOVAK

The lawyer's notes that threaten a constitutional dispute may fall short of being Whitewater's smoking gun, but they do underline President Clinton's distressing - and perhaps illegal - practice of mixing personal and public business.

Just whose lawyer was William H. Kennedy III, who has asserted the president's lawyer-client privilege in refusing to turn over his notes or answer questions about a Nov. 5, 1993, meeting? Was he the president's or the people's attorney? At the time of the meeting, he was an associate White House counsel on the public payroll. He was before that and is again today a member of the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock, Ark., an organization inextricably linked to the president's family and his White House.

MIXING

Clinton carried the practice of mixing private and public business from Little Rock to Washington, typified by the undisputed fact that ex-Rose lawyer Vincent Foster as deputy White House counsel was working on Whitewater problems for the president and the first lady. Beyond allegations of impropriety, conservative judicial activist Mark R. Levin, legal policy director of the Landmark Legal Foundation, contends that the president violated federal law when he claimed the lawyer-client privilege and wants Whitewater Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to look at it.

The Nov. 5, 1993, meeting was held in the Washington offices of the president's personal attorney, David Kendall. Present were four lawyers then on the White House staff: Kennedy, Bernard Nussbaum, Neil Eggleston and Bruce Lindsey. Also on hand was Little Rock lawyer Stephen Engstrom, who later helped represent Clinton against Paula Jones' allegations of sexual harassment.

PRIVILEGE

Kennedy and Lindsey both have claimed the lawyer-client privilege in declining to answer questions from the Senate Special Whitewater Committee, and Kennedy has refused to turn over his notes from the meeting. On an ABC's David Brinkley broadcast, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta repeatedly asserted,

"We do not want to surrender the attorney-client privilege."

By claiming the attorney-client privilege, Levin has written in a memo, "the president and Mrs. Clinton are admitting that they used Mr. Kennedy for personal legal matters. This is illegal."

Clinton carried the practice of mixing private and public business from Little Rock to Washington, typified by the undisputed fact that ex-Rose lawyer Vincent Foster as deputy White House counsel was working on Whitewater problems for the president and the first lady.

The Clintons may not tap the federal treasury to pay government lawyers to help them with their private legal matters.

Levin contends that this amounts to a false claim on government services, which violates several federal statutes.

SPECULATION

It goes without saying that the president's lawyers consider this speculation absurd, and

even Chairman Alfonse D'Amato's Senate committee is more interested in the substance of what happened at the meeting two years ago than in the legal implications of the president claiming the lawyer-client privilege.

D'Amato's investigators cannot believe that the White House would invoke that privilege - something Richard Nixon never attempted at the height of Watergate - unless there was something to hide. They want to see Kennedy's notes and question him and Lindsey about whether the meeting at the Williams & Connolly law office in Washington led to these governmental actions within the next two weeks.

REPORT

Federal investigator Jean Lewis was pulled off the investigation of the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association, which financed the Whitewater real estate development. The White House improperly received a Small Business Administration report about a lending agency owned by former Arkansas Municipal Judge David Hale, who has accused Clinton of pushing him to make an illegal loan. Paula Casey, appointed by Clinton as U.S. attorney in Little Rock, removed herself from the Madison investigation after refusing to do so.

Were any or all of these matters discussed by the president's private lawyers with his White House aides? The seriousness of the question explains the intensity of Republican investigators in pressing a subpoena on the president of the United States.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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Under no obligation to respond to inquiry

By MATTHEW COOPER

On Aug. 7, Bill Clinton was, as is his habit, channel surfing late at night in the residence of the White House. When he got to C-SPAN and its rebroadcast of the Senate Whitewater Committee's hearings, he quit clicking, say insiders. That day, several White House officials had testified, including Jack Quinn, the chief of staff to Vice President Al Gore. Clinton, sources say, was transfixed and delighted by Quinn's forcefulness.

Quinn had argued that Bernard Nussbaum, far from being overzealous in his handling of the investigation following the suicide of Vincent Foster, was, at first, too accommodating. Since Nussbaum had come to be seen as an obstructionist, Quinn's arguments were, to say the least, unusual. Yet Quinn held his ground under the committee's questioning. He maintained that the White House was under no obligation to let the Justice Department participate in a search of Foster's office. Instead, Quinn insisted, the White House counsel had a solemn duty to search the office first, removing sensitive documents not germane to the Foster investigation and, only then, to allow in the investigators. This was music to Clinton. The next day, the president congratulated Quinn. Little wonder that some in the White House believe that Quinn's testimony got him his recent appointment as White House counsel.

Quinn's hard line is now the order of the day. As the White House's top lawyer it is Quinn's responsibility to coordinate the administration's response to the congressional Whitewater hearings and the independent investigation being conducted by Kenneth Starr. The 45-year-old Quinn is torn between obligations. On the one hand, he must deal with the politics of the scandal, in particular the Washington dictum to put everything on the table. On the other hand, he must be a lawyer. And a lawyer, by nature, doesn't show his hand. This Beltway balance eluded Nussbaum and it may elude Quinn, too. It's telling that it was Quinn who pushed Nussbaum to take a harder line with the Justice Department. While much of the Senate committee's attention has been focused on Susan Thomases and Maggie Williams, allies of Mrs. Clinton, and whether they somehow got to Nussbaum, it now seems clear that Quinn had much to do with Nussbaum's reneging on his deal with investigators giving them full access to Foster's office. A few days after Foster's suicide, Quinn appealed to Nussbaum not to let the investigators have their way. "I have always believed that Bernie had one position when he met with me," Quinn told me, "and one when he walked out."

Now that Quinn is top dog, his harder-than-Nussbaum line seems to be working, just barely. Quinn's refusal to fork over certain documents - mostly from meetings involving the president's private attorneys - has brought him heat from Senate Whitewater Chair Alfonse D'Amato, The New York Times editorial page and probably a court battle. But that's tempered by the fact that the White House press corps is more focused on Bosnia and the budget and the public doesn't care. So Quinn may be able to hang tough. He's even willing to poke fun at D'Amato, saying that a D'Amato rejection of a Clinton proposal to release the notes with conditions "could be summarized in a couple of words - and 'Happy Birthday' doesn't come to mind."

Quinn's hard line is the product of years as a crafty K Street lawyer where he helped clients like Philip Morris get their way. A Georgetown graduate and Arnold & Porter partner, he worked as a counsel to Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign and would have helped Hart in 1988 except for a little problem named Donna Rice. Instead, Quinn wound up at the side of Al Gore, where he was better known for tactics than vision. In early 1992, Quinn hooked up with Bob Kerrey but was there to help Gore prep for his vice presidential debate. And in the Clinton White House, Quinn rose quickly under Gore's auspices, becoming Gore's chief of staff in 1993. Quinn's elbows were sharp, but Gore trusted him. So did Clinton. Quinn, for instance, unlike Leon Panetta or Harold Ickes, was among the tiny handful of White House aides to meet with Dick Morris when Clinton reached out to the ambidextrous consultant after the disastrous 1994 elections. And last spring, when Deputy White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles announced that he wanted to leave the White House - which he will do just before Christmas - Quinn was the top pick to fill Bowles's pivotal job. If there's a Gore administration, Quinn may be its chief of staff.

Second, Quinn has to face a press corps that is poised to push Whitewater. One sign of the press's sour mood came with the release of the Resolution Trust Corporation's recent report, which found the Clintons guilty of no wrongdoing. This was the report by conservative Republican lawyer Jay Stephens, the man whose appointment so angered George Stephanopoulos that he got on the phone to Treasury to "blow off steam." Incredibly, Stephens's report went unmentioned in The New York Times and The Washington Post on the day of its release. The RTC's preliminary report received more attention last summer but not much considering how Stephanopoulos's ire over Stephens's appointment put the Whitewater story in overdrive. And anything that reeks of stonewalling, no matter how legally sound, has the potential to incite the capital. Bob Dole now likens Clinton to Nixon. That's ridiculous. Jack Quinn is no John Ehrlichman. But a lot of people, he'll find, will be out to paint him that way.

Matthew Cooper is a senior editor of The New Republic.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



UNDER A SIGNED ROYAL PEACE PACT, NATO TROOPS WERE DEPLOYED WITH PRINCESS DIANA AS SHE ACCOMPANIED BOYFRIEND PAUL MCCARTNEY TO THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF A NEW BEATLES CD.

Southern comfort vs. racial politics

BY JEFFREY ROSEN

The budget stalemate has quickened the Democrats' hopes and the Republicans' fears of a new congressional majority in 1996, but the fate of both parties is more likely to be sealed by the latest judicial battles over racial gerrymandering. Faithfully applying the Supreme Court's recent command that race can't be the "predominant factor" in districting decisions, a federal appellate court last week proposed to eliminate two of Georgia's three majority black congressional districts. Although embattled white Democrats are hailing the decision as a lifeline, it may only accelerate the realignment of the South and help propel the Republican Congress into the next century.

GHOSTS

If the ghost of Lee Atwater were raised from the grave, it would cackle at the Republicans' knack for surpassing themselves in the exploitation of racial politics. In the 1980s, conservative Republicans forged a cynical alliance with black Democrats. Brandishing the Voting Rights Amendments of 1982, the Bush Justice Department acquired state legislatures (who are responsible for drawing new congressional districts every 10 years) to create as many minority districts as possible after the 1990 Census. This deprived white Democrats of their most loyal constituents and contributed to massively polarized racial bloc voting that pushed white Southerners perhaps irrevocably into the party of Lincoln. In 1995, having achieved their realignment, Republicans now have the luxury of calling for the dismantling of the minority districts they recently insisted were compelled by law. And the color-blind Supreme Court has been happy to oblige.

The effects of racial redistricting on the Republican realignment are hotly contested; but Carol Swain of Princeton University conservatively estimates that the creation of 15 black and 11 Hispanic districts after the 1990 Census cost the Democrats a total of 17 seats in the last two elections. In Georgia, the shift was especially dramatic. Before the 1990 reapportionment, Georgia was represented by eight white Democrats, one black Democrat and Newt Gingrich. After reapportionment, Georgia gained one new seat and two new minority districts. The delegation now consists of eight white Republicans and three black Democrats.

On Dec. 13, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Georgia proposed to eliminate two of the oddly shaped majority black districts and to replace them with six nearly shaped, majority white districts. By dispersing the most reliable Democratic voters, the Georgia court's plan could give white Democrats a chance to recapture the seats they lost in 1992 and 1994. But it may be too late to staunch the Republican tide. In the 1994 midterm elections, Southern white voters favored Republican House candidates by a margin of 65 percent to 35 percent. Based on a com-

puter analysis of the new map, the Georgia Republican Party estimates that it would gain 12 points in one of the current black Democratic districts and 26 points in another. If the court's plan is, in fact, implemented, the Georgia delegation after the next election might well consist of 10 white Republicans and one black Democrat.

In other Southern states, the partisan effects of the Supreme Court's new standards could be similarly extreme. On Dec. 5, the Court heard arguments about the constitutionality of minority districts in Texas and North Carolina. In Texas, two nearly shaped minority districts could have been drawn in Dallas in 1990, if only the Democratic incumbent in the adjacent district, Martin Frost, hadn't insisted on retaining black voters to protect his seat. If the Supreme Court strikes down the Texas plan, and tells the Texas legislature to create more compact districts, the Republicans would be well positioned to unseat Frost.

STRATEGY

As a political strategy, of course, the attempt to protect Democratic incumbents with creative racial gerrymanders proved to be an ironic and embarrassing failure. In North Carolina, Democrats held an eight to four advantage before redistricting; by 1994, Republicans held a seven to four edge. But the Supreme Court's refusal to acknowledge that racial gerrymanders and partisan gerrymanders are two sides of the same coin makes its color-blind jurisprudence especially slippery.

As a political strategy, of course, the attempt to protect Democratic incumbents with creative racial gerrymanders proved to be an ironic and embarrassing failure.

In the Miller case last June, Justice Kennedy announced that only "traditional race-neutral districting principles, including but not limited to compactness, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions or communities defined by actual shared interests," will pass constitutional muster. But there is something suspiciously selective about Kennedy's list of "traditional districting principles." In fact, race was not the "predominant factor" in the minds of the Democratic state legislators who created the oddly shaped districts in Texas and North Carolina; if it had been, the districts could have been as compact and graceful as Faberge eggs. Instead, the legislators were trying to balance four distinct and largely irreconcilable goals: first, complying with the Supreme Court's one-man-one-vote requirement, which means drawing districts with precisely equal numbers of voters; second,

complying with the Voting Rights Amendments of 1982, which means creating districts where blacks and Hispanics constitute a majority; third, protecting white Democratic incumbents, which means retaining their base of loyal black voters; and, finally, creating districts that are relatively compact, which means drawing shapes that strike Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as pretty rather than "bizarre."

Even a cartographer with the skills of Magellan can't achieve all four of these goals at the same time. By exalting the aesthetic virtues of neatly shaped districts, and refusing to relax the one-man-one-vote requirement, the Supreme Court has implicitly forced state legislatures to sacrifice the other two goals - namely, protecting Democratic incumbents and complying with the Voting Rights Act.

CONCLUSIONS

But where in the Constitution does it say that creating pleasantly shaped districts is a "traditional districting principle," but protecting incumbents isn't? Nowhere. In fact, only a generation ago, the Burger Court reached precisely the opposite conclusion. In 1973, the Court declared that incumbency protection was a long tradition in American politics, and it might justify minor population variations among the districts. During the same year, the Court said explicitly that "a State's preference for pleasingly shaped districts can hardly justify population variations." The only thing that has changed between 1973 and 1995 is the composition of the Court.

By the next Census, of course, the Republican realignment may be so far advanced that the GOP will control the Southern state legislatures and, with them, the next round of redistricting. "Soon we'll be able to do the good old fashion kind of gerrymandering which involves protecting your incumbents," says conservative strategist Grover Norquist. "Democrats obsess about race. We don't." Not this decade, anyway. And perhaps after the new districts are drawn in the new millennium, the conservative justices will suddenly decide that protecting incumbents is a "traditional districting principle" after all.

Jeffrey Rosen is legal affairs editor of *The New Republic*.

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1995 GOES INTO 1996—



TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

ACROSS

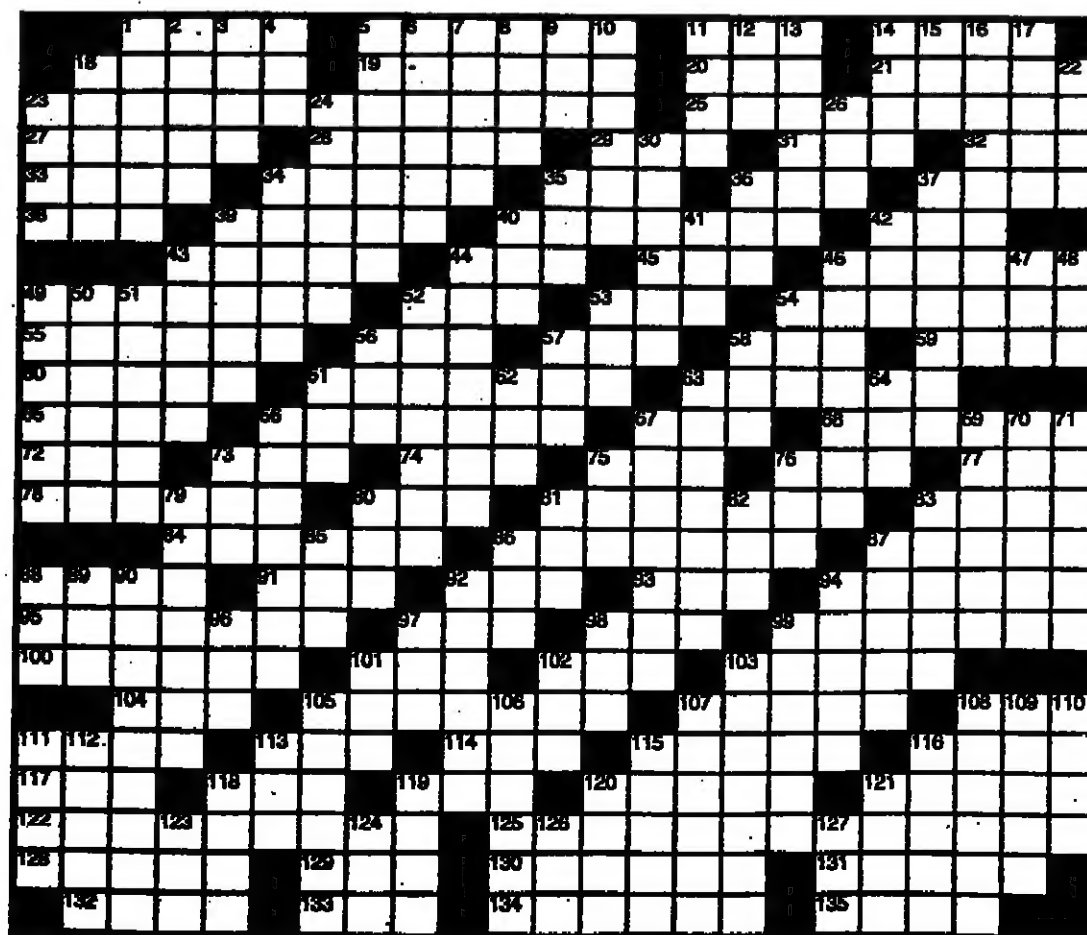
- 1 5,260 feet
- 2 Manager
- 3 Auto
- 4 Singer McEntire
- 5 Artificial waterway
- 6 Profession
- 7 Lyric poem
- 8 "Stop" at sea
- 9 Perimeter of a circle
- 10 Marching band member
- 11 "—" use and
- 12 Society-page word
- 13 Lamb's mom
- 14 Heavy weight
- 15 Designer
- 16 Chisel
- 17 Author—Rogers
- 18 St. John's
- 19 Put on
- 20 High card
- 21 Quail
- 22 Zing of "90210"
- 23 Timber
- 24 Long fish
- 25 Post Dickinson
- 26 Chess pieces
- 27 Large deer
- 28 Road shade
- 29 Surround
- 30 Blind as a—
- 31 Amateur radio operator
- 32 Liquor lounge
- 33 Tranquil
- 34 Remble
- 35 Golf term
- 36 Your and my
- 37 Division word
- 38 Trolley sound
- 39 Taught privately
- 40 Appetizer
- 41 Film preach
- 42 Actor Kevin
- 43 House pet
- 44 Bone tissue

DOWN

- 1 Abandon
- 2 Biting on oneself
- 3 Poets
- 4 Shade tree
- 5 Picturesque view
- 6 Conditional release
- 7 Sports stadium
- 8 Philosopher
- 9 To wait
- 10 Like some champagne
- 11 Frequently
- 12 To pass happen
- 13 Oklahoma city
- 14 Turn down
- 15 Hard to find
- 16 Night below
- 17 Military unit
- 18 Fur merchant
- 19 John Jacob
- 20 Spelunker
- 21 Carves shelter
- 22 Moslem judge
- 23 Violin
- 24 Be in debt
- 25 Males beloved
- 26 Flavoring ingredient
- 27 Pether or Quey
- 28 Request
- 29 Type of dog
- 30 In the company of
- 31 Tennis match
- 32 division
- 33 German city
- 34 Always, to a point
- 35 Actress Verdugo
- 36 Pop singer
- 37 Chewy candy
- 38 Dried
- 39 Corned Philip
- 40 Get away
- 41 Wrestling hold
- 42 Banned
- 43 Pastlight necessity
- 44 Possessed
- 45 Bakery product
- 46 Gloomy one
- 47 According to
- 48 Cereal grain
- 49 Plaything

ACROSS

- 45 Chetral player
- 46 Type of gain
- 47 Latin—Bain
- 48 Italian city
- 49 Indicate
- 50 Modern
- 51 Picture view
- 52 Misunder
- 53 U.S. power agency
- 54 Male falling
- 55 Drowning device
- 56 Fleeting
- 57 Model Card
- 58 Negative vote
- 59 Head movement
- 60 Big hit
- 61 New
- 62 Garden tool
- 63 Calm
- 64 Purn or Gaber
- 65 Mariner
- 66 Sliding piece
- 67 Finger-up story
- 68 Field
- 69 River island
- 70 Old name for Tokyo
- 71 Across West
- 72 Dinosaur
- 73 Capital of Switzerland
- 74 Polka word
- 75 Dinosaur
- 76 Temper
- 77 Group of eight
- 78 Remain
- 79 Title
- 80 Lander
- 81 Brink
- 82 Lenses
- 83 2nd or medal
- 84 Latin party
- 85 Garg's dog
- 86 Fault problem
- 87 Bridge fast
- 88 Children's game
- 89 Brief sleep
- 90 Chicken
- 91 Spanish gold





Governments reach a peace agreement

BY DANIEL PIPES

While it has gone generally unreported, the Syrian and Israeli governments — despite their tense relations — have quietly established the general contours of a peace agreement. In the four principal areas of negotiations, the two sides have no profound differences.

On the extent of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, a traditional stumbling block, the two sides barely disagree. Peres has said that "we are sitting on the Syrians' land," and he has made clear his willingness, in the context of an overall agreement and subject to a national referendum, to leave the Heights. The two sides still haggle over the exact boundary: Israel insists on the Mandatory (or international) border of 1923, while Syria's President Hafez al-Assad demands a withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, line. The difference between the two sides has also made considerable progress on the timetable of withdrawal. Jerusalem originally suggested three stages over eight years, while Damascus demanded a complete withdrawal in six months. By the beginning of 1995, the Israelis were down to four years and Syrians up to 18 months. A compromise is within sight.

Security arrangements on the Heights have also proved less of a stumbling block than they once appeared. The Syrians began by arguing that for every mile of territory alongside the Heights which they demilitarized, Israel must do the same. The late Yitzhak Rabin, noting that Syria is nine times as large as Israel, sought a nine-to-one ratio instead. By mid-1995, the Syrians offered a 10-to-6 ratio, and the bargaining was underway. Israel's desire to maintain an early warning station or two on Mount Hermon remains highly. Finally, Jerusalem demands full normalization after the first stage of withdrawal. Assad initially refused to discuss normalization, saying this would only follow a complete withdrawal. With time, he made two concessions. First, he signaled that Israel could expect a "normal peace, of the type existing between 187 countries in the world" and on another occasion he spoke of "good relations with Israel, like Egypt and Jordan have." Second, he agreed to establish low-level diplomatic ties after a first, partial withdrawal of Israeli forces.

The substantive differences, therefore,

are manageable. With American pressure, they could be solved within a matter of weeks or maybe months. But they probably will not, because the central obstacle lies not in the international relations of the Middle East but in the much less widely discussed arena of Syrian domestic politics. At home, it is good for Assad to keep the peace process alive, but it would be very dangerous for him to actually reach a deal.

Assad's domestic position stems largely from his religion. Many in the West assume he is Muslim, but few Muslims recognize him as a fellow believer. Rather, they see him as an 'Alawi, an adherent of the small, secretive post-Islamic religion found almost exclusively in Syria. This affiliation renders Assad an outsider in his own country. As a small minority, 'Alawis realize they cannot rule indefinitely against the wishes of almost 70 percent of the population. Given the brutal nature of Syrian politics, the resentful majority, were it to reach power, would probably exact a terrible revenge. To assure his community's survival, Assad must pursue two goals above all others. He must control Syria during his lifetime, and then pass power on to his family and co-religionists.

Accordingly, Assad sees foreign relations less as the pursuit of abstract goals, or even national interest, than as a means of regime survival. In this context, peace with Israel poses three threats. First, it would alienate Ba'th Party members and government employees, many of whom live off the bloated military, and domestic security apparatus, that the Zionist threat justifies.

Second, other Syrians view peace with Israel as the beginning of a larger opening to the West. They see such an opening as a way to shed totalitarian rule, poverty and global isolation. As a young professor at Damascus University puts it, "We will expect democracy if peace comes." Assad probably fears that perestroika would topple his government.

If he does not, in fact, seek peace with Israel, why then does the Syrian president pursue negotiations in an apparently serious manner? He has, after all, made concessions that bring a peace agreement within sight.

In all likelihood, Assad negotiates as a way to improve his standing in Washington. While peace itself would spell little but trouble, the peace process brings many benefits. Assad's goal, then, is not peace but a peace process. He participates in negotiations without intending

them to reach fruition. Engaging in apparently serious talks wins him improved relations with the West without forcing him to open up his country. Assad's international terrorist network rivals Iran and Libya's, but the U.S. does not ostracize Damascus to nearly the same extent. Last year, President Clinton traveled to Damascus, and the U.S. allows American oil companies to operate in Syria, which it does not in Iran. To keep these goodies coming, Assad offers an occasional flourish but while these titillate, they amount to little.

This approach worked best when Likud was in power, for Assad could rely on Yitzhak Shamir's government to maintain a hard line as well. Matters became more complicated when Labor, who actually want to return virtually all of the Golan Heights, returned to power in 1992. Faced with such flexibility, Assad has stalled.

Because Assad's goal in the negotiations is to improve relations not with Jerusalem but with Washington, he is susceptible to American pressure. U.S. policy should exploit his fears so that he sees complying with American wishes as his best chance to keep his family and people in power. Washington should abandon the soft, more-in-sorrow-than-in-anger policy toward Damascus that has been in place since 1984 and adopt a much tougher approach. It could do so by speaking out against Syria's occupation of Lebanon or encouraging cooperation between Israel and Turkey, a prospect that frightens Assad.

An authoritarian leader like Assad responds to pressure, not jawboning or goodwill gestures. When Assad engages in activities contrary to American interests, he needs to hear about it. When he does something right, Washington should express less delight. Instead, with more equanimity, it should say "Thank you; what will you give us next?" Hearing these words, and worried about hostile actions that might follow, Assad may make real concessions to American sensibilities and interests. He might even sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Daniel Pipes is editor of *The Middle East Quarterly* and author of the forthcoming book *Syria Beyond the Peace Process*.

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Hate speech and hate crimes

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The relationship between hateful speech and hateful acts is again in the news. A racially motivated double murder, allegedly committed by two soldiers who had previously been disciplined for white supremacist views, has led the Army to begin an investigation of other soldiers with similar views. A shooting rampage and fire in Harlem, New York, which claimed the lives of several people, has caused many black leaders to re-evaluate some of the anti-white and anti-Semitic rhetoric that has become a staple of some black radio stations and newspapers. The murder of Israel's Prime Minister Rabin, by a right-wing religious zealot, whose actions may well have been influenced by the teachings of some fundamentalist rabbis, has led to much soul-searching among Jews of all religious and political persuasions. And Congress seems bent on enacting legislation mandating a "v chip" on all televisions, so that parents can block violent programming that experts believe contribute to our acceptance of violence.

There can be no doubt that speech can incite violence. As Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once put it: "Every idea is an incitement." But the dilemma is that what educates one person may incite another — what leads one reader to good acts may lead another to bad acts. No book illustrates this reality better than the Bible.

Throughout history, the Bible has inspired some men and women to selfless acts of charity, piety and good will. The same Bible stimulated the genocidal Crusades, dozens of wars and numerous killings. In recent months alone, we have seen holy books and their preachers cited by anti-abortion fanatics as justification for killing doctors, by the murderer of Prime Minister Rabin, by Islamic terrorists, by Christian Scientists who have refused treatment to their curable children, and by all sides of the various religious conflicts that still plague the world.

Religious bigots like Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell quote the Bible in justification of the hate speech they direct against gays and lesbians. Other haters then engage in gay bashing and killing, believing that their violence is somehow authorized by God.

Then, of course, there is the backlash against speech. Even before the horrible people who burned to death a token clerk in the New York subway were apprehended, there were calls for censorship of the movie "Money Train," which had shown a similar scene. We have now learned from one of the apprehended criminals that this particular subway crime had been planned even before the release of the movie. But the calls for censorship persist.

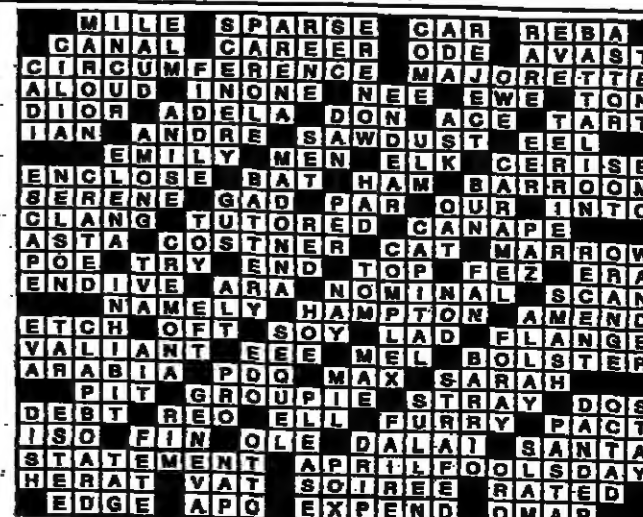
The military faces the delicate task of balancing the First Amendment rights of soldiers with the legitimate interests of the armed forces in preventing racist acts. They can certainly learn a negative lesson from the Los Angeles Police Department — a para-military organization — which neglected racist attitudes among many of its police officers until the Rodney King videotape and the Mark Fuhrman audiotape showed that hateful words and attitudes may have ripened into hateful actions. But soldiers, like policemen, have the right to believe what they choose and to say what they believe, so long as it does not interfere with their important jobs.

The classic answer to bad speech is good speech. Instead of censoring, we ought to be educating. Racist speech must be answered in the marketplace of ideas. All that is accomplished by censoring or even investigating racist attitudes will be to drive them underground, where they can be even more dangerous. We must get to the root causes of what has led young men and women to believe the kind of bigoted drivel preached by white, black and religious supremacists. We must de-legitimize the bigoted preachers by persuading young Americans of the virtue of the American creed that all men and women are created equal, without regard to race, gender, religious beliefs of lack thereof, sexual preference or natural origin. The stakes are high precisely because hateful attitudes do sometimes lead to hateful actions. But the answer is not censorship, because attitudes become even more hardened when they are censored. Government censorship is even less justified when it is directed against religion whose "free exercise" is especially protected by the First Amendment. But with freedom of speech and religion comes the responsibility to use that freedom constructively.

So instead of "v chips," let us see more parents teaching their children about the evils of violence. Instead of investigations, let us hear the armed forces and the police instilling more egalitarian values. Let religious leaders take the lead by preaching love and acceptance, rather than the kind of tribal divisiveness that has become all too typical of too many contemporary religious leaders. As our brave soldiers embark on the dangerous work of trying to bring peace to a region divided by religious and ethnic hatred for half a millennium, let us pledge never to allow our nation to be torn apart by tribal conflicts.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse."

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Ekrem Bey: From sultan secretary to J'lem governor

THERE AND THEN

SHAY SHAPIRO

AL Ekrem Bey, who was appointed governor of Jerusalem in 1906, was a Turkish nationalist in the Western European fashion. He inherited this tendency from his father, a poet, philosopher and political dreamer who had rebelled against Sultan Abdul Hamid.

The Ottoman empire was clearly disintegrating under the sultan's dictatorship. The rebels wished to halt this by establishing a constitutional government similar to that in France. But the circumstances in Turkey were very different.

Prof. David Kushner of the University of Haifa analyzes these circumstances by examining some 320 documents—mainly drafts of official communications with Istanbul preserved in the state archives—which he published in *Moshe Hayim Be-Yerushalayim* ("A Governor in Jerusalem," Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, 256 pp.).

In the second half of the 19th century, Palestine was more vulnerable to foreign encroachments than other parts of the Ottoman empire because of the European powers' interest in Christian holy places as well as the vast improvement in communications to the Holy Land, Kushner notes.

France, Britain and Imperial Russia were competing with each other in extracting advantages from the Sublime Porte, with the Kaiser's Germany fast gaining a foothold in Istanbul. Then, out of the blue, European Jews, citing their historic rights, put forward their claim on this dormant corner of the Ottoman realm. Ekrem Bey was disturbed.

For 18 years, Ekrem Bey had been a secretary of the sultans. When he discovered that an intrigue was brewing against him, he judged it advisable to ask for an appointment far from the capital. And so, at the end of December 1906, Ekrem Bey became the governor of Jerusalem.

After holding this post for one year, seven months and one day, he asked to be relieved, probably because he felt frustrated by his inability to make sense of the intricate situation he had found in the Holy Land.

Ekrem Bey maintained good relations with the foreign consuls in Jerusalem—the British in particular—but mistrusted them all, Kushner writes.

The extraterritorial rights granted to foreigners by the capitulations treaties irked the Turks. There were many foreigners in Jerusalem and the consuls intervened with the Turkish authorities on their behalf, especially regarding personal matters and taxes. Ekrem Bey suspected that the consuls also tacitly supported the Zionists and asked his superiors in Istanbul to request that the foreign governments instruct

their consuls not to do so.

But the khedive of Egypt, nominally a Turkish vassal though really controlled by the British, looked hungrily at Palestine, which Egypt had dominated at other points in history. Ekrem Bey reported to Istanbul that the khedive was paying for repairs at Moslem holy places. Istanbul considered Islam to be the sultan's exclusive charge, a means to assure the unity of the realm.

The Arabs of Palestine never seriously challenged the legitimacy of Ottoman rule, Kushner writes. They feared it, especially since the Ottomans gained the goodwill of some leading Jerusalem families by bestowing certain benefits on them. The Arabs' nationalistic feelings were inspired by the liberal trends in Europe, where a small number of intellectuals had been educated.

Ekrem Bey was wary of the Arab nationalists. Even after the Young Turks' revolution in 1908, he asked the authorities to replace some key Arab officials with Turks. Some Arabs, he explained, were likely to adopt the revolutionary ideas which had brought Turkish nationalists to the fore.

He viewed Zionism as a multiple threat. It was yet another claimant for sovereignty in the territory administered by the Sublime Porte. However, the Zionists were citizens of the powerful European states. Following the first Zionist Congress in 1897, the Sublime Porte issued rules to curtail Jews' entry to Palestine—in sharp contrast to the traditional open-door policy it showed to exiles of all sorts.

Even before that, a group of Arab notables in Jerusalem had dispatched a cable to the grand vizier (prime minister) in Istanbul asking him to stop Jews from settling and acquiring land in Palestine. All of this Zionist groups' attempts to come to terms with the sultan were rejected. New rules allowed only pilgrims to disembark in Palestinian ports, and their stay in the country was restricted to 30 days. Ekrem Bey prided himself on his rigid implementation of the anti-Jewish laws.

Despite his efforts, Jewish immigration increased steadily. A government committee claimed this was due to "Jewish tricks" and the venality of Turkish officials. Only 10 to 15 percent of the Jews actually left after the 30-day stay.

Ekrem Bey admitted, in his communications to the Sublime Porte, that very little could be done to stop Jewish immigration. Therefore, he suggested a thorough investigation on the matter be made. However, the idea that coming to terms with the Zionists on Herzl's extravagant dreams might prove realistic and beneficial to the Turks, never crossed his mind.

Menopause isn't part of the life of a dog or cat

HEADS N TAILS

DVORA BEN SHAUL

A reader recently called me in great agitation to tell me her 11-year-old cocker spaniel had given birth to two puppies.

The caller said she had not kept the dog in or given her any anti-pregnancy treatment because, after all, if a year for a dog equals six years for a human, then she is over 66 years old and surely too old to get pregnant.

I don't know who first propounded this six-to-one ratio for dog life as compared to human, although I can see how they did it. They took 72 as a fairly ripe old age for a human and 12 for a dog, so there you are—six to one.

The only problem is that it is not true.

To make such a comparison, one must consider not only chronological years but biological cycles as well.

Since a dog or cat is sexually mature at one year and a human at about 12, one has to conclude that the first year of life for a dog or cat is equal to 12 human years. Then we have a fairly long period of fertility in the human, ending for most women after about another 40 years.

But in a dog it lasts until the end of his life, although fertility is certainly reduced after about seven or eight years of age.

Except for humans and some primates, menopause is not a feature of animal life.

I had a 20-year-old goat once that gave birth to a healthy kid on Pessah, of all times. She would have been, by most people's calculations, 120 years old.

If a dog or cat lives into the last half of its second, or even third, decade, then every year would again represent somewhere from six to 10 human years.

Cats have been known to reach the age of 30 or 31, and I personally knew a dog that was 22 years old.

The important thing to keep in mind is that a dog or cat remains with a potential for fertility all its life.

One should continue to protect them from unwanted pregnancy even when they seem too old to be fertile. If the animal is not spayed, it should either be confined or treated hormonally to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

Incidentally, this is also true of domestic stock. Since Bedouin do not usually kill aged working camels but turn them free, it is not so rare that some very old camel matron suddenly gets frisky and has a calf.

This is the source of the so-called "wild" camels in the desert areas.

But one thing is sure—we need to abandon forever the six-to-one calculation that has been foisted upon us. I know it makes things simple but unfortunately that does not make it true.

So you want to be a pro photographer

ON CAMERA

DAVID BRAUNER

THE following letter recently came across the "On Camera" desk:

"My name is Pauline A. from Kenya. I'm currently a student on a course in Rehovot.

"I've always had dreams of being a professional photographer—landscape, nature, the lot. I've sent you two photographs I took in this beautiful land. I used a cheap automatic 35-millimeter lens camera for a beginner (yes, my first camera and some of my first ever photographs). What do you think? Can I hold on to my dream?"

The answer is a most emphatic "yes."

Pauline then asks, "Who is considered a professional photographer?" Simply anyone who makes a living from taking pictures. Photography is a funny old business, exhilarating when everything goes well, but crushingly disappointing if it doesn't.

Also, it's not necessarily the glamorous livelihood one imagines. The work is often intense, physical and demanding. The pro has to be at once sensitive and "hard nosed."

Photographers sometimes have to "hang around" for days waiting for pictures to happen. An assignment can be anywhere from a black sewer to a glistening opera hall. The pace can be hectic; the stress is wearing. Many a dedicated professional has had to sacrifice family and friends for the job.

"How does one become a pro?" First, learn to observe. Second, take plenty of pictures. Everyone has to discover for themselves what constitutes a "good picture," that is, the difference between what the eye sees and what the camera records.

Pros aren't easily intimidated. For a picture, they'll stick the camera into a lion's mouth. Robert Capa's famous adage, "If your pictures aren't good enough, you aren't close enough," says it best.

Patience is another virtue for anyone wanting to be a pro. Be prepared to wait, to come back another day or time of the day to



From the Jerusalem 3000 parade: Patience and waiting for the right picture is a virtue for anyone wanting to be a pro. (Brauner)

get the desired results.

Consistency of quality is a must. Pros have to deliver the goods. In many areas of professional photography, there are no second chances. The employer is paying for the best pictures a professional can make, not excuses.

On a practical level, start by reading books about photography, and studying the pictures of others with the aim of developing a critical eye, both in the positive and negative sense. A pro's style grows naturally out of his or her taste and choice of work.

Also, consider enrolling in a photography course. Courses give the aspiring photographer insight into the wider world of equipment, materials and processes, including computerized graphics. These "days," courses

range from the once-a-week beginner's introduction to university degree programs.

Another entree into career photography is becoming an assistant to a professional. For example, wedding photographers often require a helper to handle lighting. An assistant can observe the professional at work and learn about handling different situations and conditions.

It is also highly recommended to join a camera club. Here you will meet serious amateurs and "semi-professionals." Members are only too willing to share information, experiences and equipment. Clubs also offer photo opportunities and vital feedback.

"How does a freelancer 'sell' himself?" Essentially, pictures sell the photographer. On the

other hand, I remember one freelancer in the US telling me that he spent about half his working time on the telephone.

One way of breaking into print is through the offices of a photo stock agency. Agents supply the media with images. Today, there are many small agencies which specialize in rather confined markets, say, industrial, scientific or travel.

Agents need photographers, but they prefer to work with imaginative, productive people, otherwise their wares don't sell. The standard pay for the photographer is usually half of what the client pays.

Being on the staff of a magazine or periodical is something the professional works up to. Few publications will take a chance on someone without a

long list of credits.

"How many kinds of pro photographers are there?" Of course, there are the obvious: photojournalists, features and advertising/studio. Other opportunities include the police, medical, aerial and corporate (shooting for those glossy annual reports and trade magazines), to name but a few.

A last word about equipment: in the beginning it doesn't have to be the finest. Professional equipment is expensive and pros spend years "acquiring."

A camera is a tool. No camera comes without its defects and limitations. Pros learn to work with and around their cameras and lenses. It's part of what makes them pros.

Good luck, Pauline, and may your dream come true.

\$12 buys a young hero's immortality...and an award

THEY met him just once, a boy their age whose growth had been stunted by years of bonded labor in Pakistan. It wasn't too much later they learned he had been killed.

Now students at a middle school in Quincy, Massachusetts, south of Boston, will receive the same honor Iqbal Masih received—a human rights award—for their efforts to build a school in Pakistan named after their hero and honoring his fight against child labor.

"It was that someone our age, who could go through all those hardships; could really make a difference. That's what convinced me," said Jim Caddy, an eighth-

grader who met Masih last year during the latter's visit to the Broad Meadows Middle School.

Caddy is one of 12 students who traveled to New York to receive Reebok's Youth in Action Award for the Broad Meadows Middle School.

The number of students wasn't chosen at random.

Masih was 12 when he was shot dead last April in his village near the eastern city of Lahore. Witnesses and an independent human rights commission said a farm worker killed Masih in a squabble unrelated to his campaign to end forced child labor.

Years earlier, his father had sold him to

a carpet factory owner for the equivalent of \$12, sentencing Masih to a life of beatings, forced labor and malnutrition.

The students have suggested \$12 as the amount of donations to their "A School for Iqbal Masih Fund." Reebok will chip in \$12,000.

The Broad Meadows students will add the money to nearly \$30,000 they already have collected for the fund. They need \$50,000 to build a five-room schoolhouse in Pakistan.

Masih visited the Quincy school a year ago after receiving the award from Reebok International Ltd., which is headquartered in nearby Stoughton.

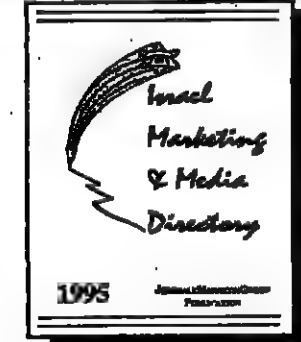
He told students about his six years of virtual slavery, about the hundreds of thousands of children like him who spent hours each day chained to their looms so they couldn't escape.

As many as a million children work in carpet factories in Pakistan, Nepal and India, human rights activists say.

Masih escaped at age 10, and spent his last two years campaigning for other children's freedom.

Days after his death, they organized a prayer vigil, petitions and a letter-writing campaign. Two weeks later, "A School for Iqbal Masih Fund" was created. (Associated Press)

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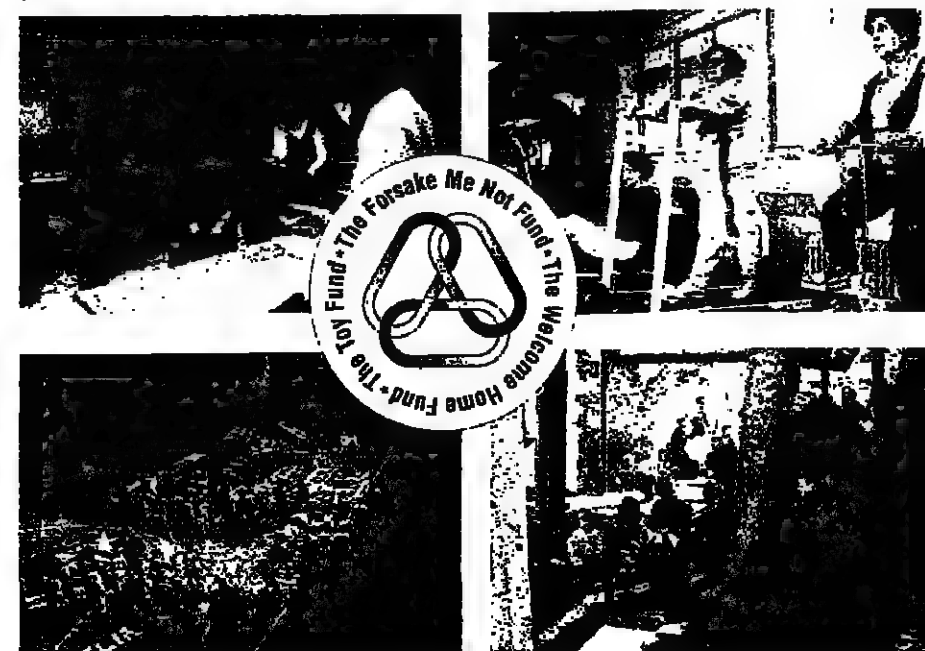
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Let's start making next year better now!

Last year The Jerusalem Post Funds cared for the needy elderly, gave to the underprivileged children, as well as granting scholarships for higher education to new immigrants and

young Israelis completing military service. Starting at Rosh Hashana we will be opening this year's campaign to brighten the days of the needy, young and old.



Donations should be sent to The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000. All contributions in Israel in Shekels are tax deductible. Donors in the U.S. wishing to receive tax benefits can mail their checks to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E43rd St, New York, NY 10017. Checks should be made out to Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds.

Hayden, Means a 1-2 punch for Chargers

East Young and Marino. Favre



Today will be a big chance for Hayden. That's because if the Chargers win, Means likely will regain his starting spot.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE NATIONAL FOOTBALL

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Australia thrashes Sri Lanka

They played very well.

Taylor said.

N. Taylor not out	25
M. Slater not out	13
Extras (lb-1, nb-2)	3
Total (for no wicket, 7.4 overs)	61
Bowling: Vase 3-0-25-0 (nb-2), Gunstins 3-1-6-0, De Silva 1-0-4-0, Thilakaratne 0-0-5-0	
Result: Australia won by 10 wickets	

✓

in Independence Bowl record 234 yards and scored two touchdowns.

Michigan (9-4) had a three-game winning streak in bowl games snapped, while A & M coach R.C. Slocum improved his bowl record to 2-4 and ended a three-game losing skid in the postseason.

مكة من الأهل

Bills put Dolphins away early

ORCHARD PARK, NY (AP) — The team that won't go away blew away the Miami Dolphins yesterday and sent a strong message to the rest of the NFL: The Buffalo Bills are ready for another Super Bowl run.

After a year's hiatus from the playoffs, the Bills took aim at a fifth AFC championship in six years with a 37-7 rout of the disappointing Dolphins. The game was over by halftime, when Thurman Thomas had 113 of his 158 yards rushing and Steve Tasker had 106 yards receiving. Buffalo set an AFC playoff record with 341 yards rushing, 41 yards shy of the NFL mark, in winning its ninth straight postseason game at Rich Stadium. Marv Levy extended his coaching domination of Don Shula to 17-6, 16-5 with Buffalo; 3-0 in the playoffs.

After a 4-0 start, Miami slumped to 9-7, squeezing into the playoffs on the final weekend with help from other teams. The Dolphins exited quickly, falling behind 24-0 in the first 21½ minutes. They were down 27-0 when Dan Marino hit O.J. McDuffie with a 5-yard TD pass with 13:53 left.

Marino, who threw three interceptions, found Raul Hila for a 45-yard touchdown with 8:01 to go. Terry Kirby's 1-yard run and McDuffie's 2-point conversion pass provided Miami's other points.

Seldom-used Tim Tindale punctuated the blowout with a 44-yard run with 9:31 remaining. Thomas, who tied John Riggins' NFL rushing record of six 100-yard playoff games, scored from the 1 just 5:02 into the game. Tasker caught three passes for 45 yards on the drive.

Steve Christie's first of three field goals, a 48-yard line drive, made it 10-0 on Buffalo's next possession. The early margin could have been greater, but Kelly made a terrible pass on third down from the Miami 2. His fumble was picked off in the end zone and returned to the Dolphins 20 by Gene Atkins, killing a 56-yard drive.

Darick Holmes had a 34-yard romp, Billy Brooks went 21 yards on a reverse and Tasker — who killed Miami on reverses in a Buffalo win December 17 — gained 26 on a reception.

Miami finally got moving, only to be stymied on fourth-and-7 at the Bills' 32 when Marino's pass to Gary Clark was too high.

It took Buffalo only four plays to make it 17-0. Thomas had rushes of 13 and 32 yards before Holmes broke four tackles on a 21-yard scoring run.

The Bills made an even quicker kill on their next possession, set up when Marino was hit by Phil Hansen and his wobbly pass fell right to linebacker Marlo Perry.

Three plays later, Tasker — who missed the second half with a hamstring injury — caught Kelly's perfect 37-yard pass in the corner of the end zone, and the Dolphins were finished.



ROYAL TREATMENT — Manchester United's Ryan Giggs attempts to get past Queen's Park Rangers' David Bardsley during their Premier League match yesterday. (AP)

Shearer scores 100 goals

Manchester United closing in on Newcastle

LONDON (Reuters) — Blackburn's Alan Shearer became the first player to score 100 goals in the Premier League and Manchester United moved within four points of leaders Newcastle with a 2-1 win over Queen's Park Rangers yesterday.

Newcastle, 10 points clear at the top before Manchester United beat them 2-0 last Wednesday, was powerless to resist its supremacy because its match at West Ham was one of dozens in England called off because of frozen pitches.

England striker Shearer netted Blackburn's second goal in a 2-1 win over Tottenham to maintain his record of scoring in every Premier League season.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	20	14	3	3	40	18	45
Sheff Wed	20	12	5	3	40	24	41
Sheff Utd	20	10	5	5	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	27	15	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	28	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	27	14	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	27	14	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	27	14	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	27	14	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	27	14	34

home league game this season and became the first man to notch a century of goals in the Premier League, now in its fourth season.

Andy Cole and Ryan Giggs were on target for Manchester United, champions in the first two seasons of the Premier League before Blackburn deposed the team last season.

Cole, rediscovering the lethal finishing touch which prompted United to buy him from Newcastle for £7 million last season, claimed his third goal in three games with a header a minute before the interval.

Welsh international Giggs added the second seven minutes after the break and, although QPR substitute Danielle Dichio pulled one back in the 68th minute, United held on to take all three points.

Only 12 matches were played in England's four major divisions and three in Scotland. Three English Premier League games fell victim to the freezing cold — West Ham v Newcastle, Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton v Manchester City.

French international defender William Premier came desperately close to marking his Manchester United league debut with a great goal when he charged in to meet a corner with a thundering header.

QPR's American goalkeeper Juergen Sommer did superbly well to palm the ball away with his left hand but the marauding Cole was on hand to plunder the goal which Premier, on a two-week trial from French first division Bordeaux, had so nearly scored himself.

At the other end, a blunder by United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel presented QPR with a life-line after Giggs' goal when Dichio charged down the Dane's attempted clearance and lofted the ball into the empty net for his side's first away goal since he netted at Bolton back in September.

Liverpool moved into third place ahead of Tottenham on goal difference, twice coming from behind to draw 2-2 at Chelsea to take its tally to 35 points from 20 games.

John Spencer scored for Chelsea in the ninth and 45th minutes only for England international Steve McManaman to hit back for Liverpool in the 33rd and 76th.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	20	12	6	2	40	24	42
Sheff Utd	20	11	7	2	36	18	40
Sheff Utd	20	10	8	2	36	18	38
Sheff Utd	20	9	9	2	36	18	36
Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	20	12	6	2	40	24	42
Sheff Utd	20	11	7	2	36	18	40
Sheff Utd	20	10	8	2	36	18	38
Sheff Utd	20	9	9	2	36	18	36
Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	20	12	6	2	40	24	42
Sheff Utd	20	11	7	2	36	18	40
Sheff Utd	20	10	8	2	36	18	38
Sheff Utd	20	9	9	2	36	18	36
Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
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Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
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Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
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Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34

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Sheff Utd	20	10	8	2	36	18	38
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Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34

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Sheff Utd	20	11	7	2	36	18	40
Sheff Utd	20	10	8	2	36	18	38
Sheff Utd	20	9	9	2	36	18	36
Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
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Sheff Utd	20	10	8	2	36	18	38
Sheff Utd	20	9	9	2	36	18	36
Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
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Sheff Utd	20	10	8	2	36	18	38
Sheff Utd	20	9	9	2	36	18	36
Sheff Utd	20	9	8	3	36	18	35
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34
Sheff Utd	20	9	7	4	36	18	34

Betar Jerusalem takes league lead

ORI LEWIS

BETAR Jerusalem finally achieved what it has been threatening to do for a while when it grabbed the National League leadership as the season reached the halfway stage yesterday.

Betar put on a superb performance at the Hativva Quarter and came back with a 4-1 win while former leaders, Maccabi Tel Aviv failed to overcome lowly Hapoel Be'er Sheva in a goalless draw at Bloomfield.

The two other leading sides, Hapoel and Maccabi Haifa also failed to gain decisive results, Hapoel drawing with Hapoel Petah Tikva at home and Maccabi managing a 2-2 result with Maccabi Petah Tikva away.

The league now takes a three-week break, with clubs returning to action only in two weeks' time in the eighth round of the State Cup.

Second Division sides were involved in seventh-round action in the State Cup yesterday.

Bnei Yehuda 1, Bet. Jerusalem 4. Over 12,000 spectators squeezed into the Hativva Quarter ground, whose official capacity is only 9,500, as police sought to avert a disaster at the ground.

The swelling was caused by avid Betar fans who had rolled down from the capital to see their in-form side, as it turned out, their trip was very worthwhile as the visitors notched up an excellent win at a ground where they haven't won for five seasons.

But the opening moments belonged to Bnei Yehuda and its star, Alon Mizrahi. After only eight minutes he gave the Hativva Quarter something to cheer about with a classy goal from 10 meters out.

That was what Betar needed to get its side into action. No sooner did the home side have time to bask in its lead than Betar struck back through defender Shmueli Levy, whose powerful shot from close in gave Bnei Yehuda no chance.

Betar continued to shine throughout the rest of the match and took the lead with 20 minutes gone when Ivar Salo scored the ball home after receiving a perfect pass from Eli Ohana.

Ronen Harazi got into the thick of the action later in the match and was fouled in the area 10 minutes after the restart. He stepped up to take the resulting penalty and by this time Betar looked to be cruising to victory.

Ohana put the ball in the net a few minutes later but was adjudged offside and it was left to defender Eitan Mizrahi to seal the scoreline four minutes from the end.

Macc. Tel Aviv 0, Hap. Be'er Sheva 0. Maccabi failed dismally to score

and in so doing lost first place in the standings to Betar Jerusalem.

Maccabi appeared complacent for much of the match, while allowing the visitors from Be'er Sheva a fair share of the action.

When they finally woke up and realized that time was running out, the Tel Avivians pushed forward, but still failed to score. Itzik Zohar came close in the dying seconds, but saw his clear shot at goal deflected for a corner.

Mac. PT 2, Mac. Haifa 2. Haifa got itself into trouble with just six minutes gone when Sergei Koudaurov had a run in with referee Meir Levy and was sent off for dissent when he protested a yellow card decision against him.

But playing a man short didn't appear to hamper Haifa's prospects, which played with the aim of finding Haim Revivo up front.

The play worked as the creative midfielder came up with a goal in the 22nd minute with a shot that took a deflection and left Petah Tikva "keeper" Golan Mahal stranded.

Revivo struck again three minutes later with a free kick which again left Mahal out of reach.

But at that point, with Haifa relying solely on Revivo for inspiration and penetration, Petah Tikva struck back. Within two minutes Roman Filipchuk (28) and then Tal Buaya (30) leveled the scores. The second half was much less fruitful with Haifa still relying on Revivo, whose well had dried up, while Petah Tikva appeared happy to play out for a draw.

Hap. Haifa 1, Hap. PT 1. Haifa's great league run was halted in a poor game at Kiryat Eliezer. The home side originally appeared to be marching on to another famous win when Viacheslav Sokolov scored in the 10th minute, but Petah Tikva was not about to give up.

Adoram Casey leveled the scores on 28 minutes from a header which resulted from a free kick and both sides played out the rest of the half. Petah Tikva's Yisrael Cohen was sent off in the second half but that did not help Haifa's cause a great deal.

Atar was fouled in the area with the game 70 minutes old, and another Haifa victory appeared a certainty. He took the kick himself and coolly put the ball in the net, but referee Yitzhak Ben-Yitzhak ordered the kick to be retaken after Haifa players ran into the box before Atar had struck the ball.

The second attempt was not so successful, as Atar shot straight at Shai Hess, that ended the shooting at goal. Casey picked up a serious injury late in the game and was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg.

Mac. Jaffa 1, Hap. Tel Aviv 1. One goal for each side — Jaffa's scored by Itzik Suissa and Tel Aviv's by Nissim Avitab — made sure of a share of the points, but far from satisfied both sides, who are in desperate need of points.

Jaffa is looking to clear the relegation zone while Hapoel wants to try to get out of its mid-table position and join the leaders. But on the evidence of Friday's game there appears to be nothing to suggest that either team's fortunes will change in the near future.

Hap. Kfar Sava 3, Zefirim Holon 0. Kfar Sava scored a vital win over fellow-strugglers Holon with a confident display in front of their home crowd.

Andrei Lozovsky opened the scoring with a header in the 34th minute and two further second half goals by Koby Refuah (62) and substitute Mouri Yeverbaum in the final minute made sure all the points stayed at home.

Hap. Beersheba 1, Mac. Herzliya 1. Oren Sagron finally broke the deadlock on the stroke of halftime in this less than inspiring encounter in the Neguev.

But if Beersheba had thought that its home advantage would be enough to give it victory, it had something else coming in the second half, as Herzliya's star, Ofir Mizrahi struck on 61 minutes to grab at least one point for the journey back home.

Bet. Tel Aviv 2, Ironi Rishon 0. Bottom side at the start of play yesterday, Betar, managed its first victory in seven matches with an important win over Rishon.

Young Yaniv Aharil scored both Betar's goals to see them jump out of immediate relegation danger with goals in the 66th and 88th minutes, the first goal coming on a breakthrough move which left the Rishon defense stranded.

NATIONAL LEAGUE						
After 15 rounds						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jerusalem	11	3	1	36	14	36
Mac. Tel Aviv	11	2	2	34	11	35
Hap. Haifa	10	3	2	34	14	33
Mac. Haifa	9	3	3	28	18	32
Mac. Petah Tikva	8	4	3	27	23	27
Mac. Herzliya	7	2	6	18	15	23
Hap. Petah Tikva	5	7	3	21	17	22
Hap. Tel Aviv	5	7	3	21	17	22
Hap. Beersheba	4	6	5	18	17	17
Rishon LeZion	4	2	9	15	20	14
Hap. Kfar Sava	4	2	9	15	20	14
Hap. Kfar Yehoshua	3	5	7	15	19	13
Hap. Beit She'an	3	4	8	13	29	13
Mac. Tel Aviv	3	3	9	16	34	12
Shimon Holan	3	2	10	18	31	11
Mac. Herzliya	2	1	12	15	30	10
<hr/>						
Total Goals	210			160		270

'96 budget passes 52-36

EVELYN GORDON

THE 1996 state budget finally passed early Friday morning, by a vote of 52-36, with five abstentions.

The abstentions came from the Arab and haredi parties, who had struck deals with the government.

The haredim obtained money for their institutions, and the Arabs got an agreement to reduce the property tax on inherited land.

The money will come out of the budgetary reserves, however, and will not increase the overall size of the NIS 172.8 billion budget.

The two MKs affiliated with The Third Way movement supported the budget, in exchange for additional money for the Golan Heights settlements.

The vote came after a mara-

thon debate that lasted some 80 hours, and the Knesset House Committee is to meet this week to consider ways of ensuring that the debate is a more reasonable length next year.

While house rules already limit the debate on the actual budget to six hours, there is currently no such limit on the accompanying Economic Arrangements Law, so

this law has become the vehicle for the annual budget filibuster.

MK Dan Tichon, the Likud coordinator on the Knesset Finance Committee, yesterday demanded an immediate committee session to cut NIS 2 billion from the budget, the party said in a statement.

Tichon said the budget represented "electoral blackmail," and would lead to an economic crisis immediately following the next Knesset elections.

Ministry moves to relieve severe hospital crowding

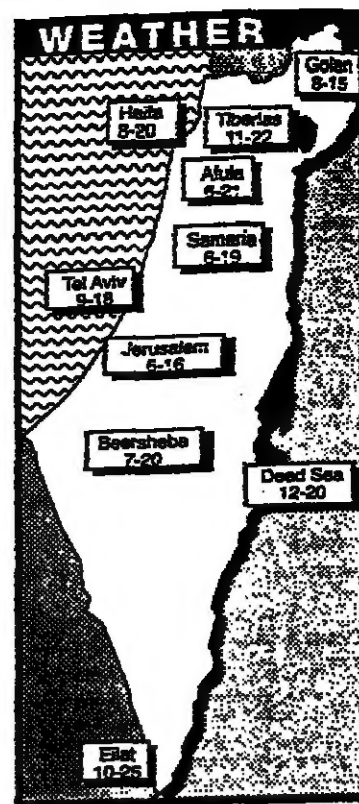
JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry is acting to relieve severe overcrowding in the general hospitals. Some 150 elderly patients who need long-term care will be transferred to geriatric institutions to make room for acute-care patients.

The Treasury allocated NIS 9 million for the transfer. In addition, NIS 5m. was allocated to temporarily increase medical and nursing staffs in government hospitals.

According to the ministry, occupancy in internal medicine departments currently ranges from 110 percent to 180%. Many patients are being treated in the corridors, and some new admissions are remaining in emergency rooms for several days because of lack of space in internal medicine departments. Hospital directors noted that these are unsuitable for treating patients, as they are lighted and noisy around the clock.

There were reports that the wave of influenza, whose complications have caused the elderly and chronically ill to be hospitalized, is due to abate soon. It still is not too late to be vaccinated against the flu, but it takes a few weeks before the shots offer protection.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, decline in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F		C	F
Jerusalem	11	52	London	8	46
Tel Aviv	18	64	Paris	7	45
Haifa	15	59	Rome	6	43
Beer Sheva	20	68	Moscow	-5	23
Eilat	10	50	New York	-2	28
Dead Sea	12	54	Los Angeles	6	43
			Hong Kong	16	61
			Beijing	-1	30
			Tokyo	5	41
			Sydney	18	64
			Auckland	15	59
			Wellington	14	57
			Christchurch	13	55
			Dunedin	12	54

Israel urged to comply with UN war-crimes tribunals

SUE FISHKOFF

ISRAEL should pass legislation enabling it to comply with the international tribunals set up by the UN Security Council to prosecute war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, Richard Goldstone, a South African Supreme Court justice and chief prosecutor for both tribunals, said at the end of the week.

Goldstone was in Tel Aviv for the 10th Congress of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, which ends today. He heads a team of 150 people from 37 nations in the Bosnian tribunal, and 50 in the Rwandan tribunal, both operating out of The Hague.

In an earlier interview, Goldstone noted that while all 186 UN member states are bound to respond favorably to the tribunals set up last year by the Security Council, only 14 nations have passed legislation requiring them to hand over witnesses or suspects in the case of the Bosnian Serb trials, and two nations in the case of Rwanda.

"It's unlikely that any witnesses or suspects are in Israel, but Israel and the Jewish people have a special reason for wanting to align themselves with international tribunals charging people with genocide," Goldstone said.

Neither the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia nor the Bosnian Serbs have recognized the tribunals, so the 46 Bosnian Serbs and three Yugoslav soldiers already indicted have not been handed over for trial, he said. The only indicted individual awaiting trial in Holland is Dusan Tadic, handed over by Germany.

Goldstone is "cautiously optimistic" that the others will be

handed over, as well as the half-dozen Croatian nationals indicted.

One of the challenges of the Rwanda tribunal will be to establish the extent of the genocide that took place between April and June 1994, when an estimated 500,000-1,000,000 Rwandans were murdered.

"We haven't the German efficiency or 'paper trail' they had at the Nuremberg trials," Goldstone said.

The Rwandan tribunal is progressing more quickly than the Bosnian, he said. Four "important suspects" are in detention in Zambia and three in Belgium, and will be handed over when indicted. Eight people indicted December 12 will also face trial.

In both tribunals, convictions could be punishable by life imprisonment. A number of countries have offered their prisons for Bosnian war criminals, including the Scandinavian nations, Germany, Iran, and Pakistan. No country has yet offered to imprison convicted Rwandans. The UN will undoubtedly foot the bill for all prison terms, he said.

Goldstone described the international tribunals as "the only way to bring reconciliation and peace" to these two war-torn countries, given their long histories of internal violence.

While Goldstone considers the tribunals he heads as "better than the international community doing nothing," he favors the establishment of a permanent, independent international court with an independent prosecutor that would consider war crimes from any country, "and not just" when the Security Council decides.

Ministers from 25 countries here for education meet

BATSHEVA TSUR

EDUCATION ministers from 25 countries including China, Britain and Russia will participate in a conference within the framework of a giant educational exhibition to open in Jerusalem today.

The exhibition, dedicated to the memory of Yitzhak Rabin, will cost the Education Ministry NIS 9 million. Ministry Director-General Shimon Shoshani justified the sum for the exhibition and accompanying events, saying this was the first time that Israel's educational achievements would be displayed to such a large public.

He told a news conference over the weekend that there would be no fewer than 54 symposia in which the country's teachers would participate, as well as 60 artistic performances during the 10 days of the exhibition.

An international conference on scientific and technological education under the auspices of UNESCO, called JISTEC '96, will also bring 500 experts from 33 countries to the Jerusalem International Convention Center, where the events are being held, Shoshani noted.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who was unable to attend the news conference because of a Knesset debate, will brief the cabinet at its weekly meeting today on Israel's educational achievements, Shoshani said.

The festive opening of the exhibition will take place in the presence of Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Rabin's widow, Leah, will attend the dedication ceremony.

House arrest for ad man in Danon bribery case

NAHUM Stulberg, 39, of Tel Aviv, suspected of bribing Transport Ministry spokesman Eli Danon, was placed under house arrest for 15 days Friday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court and ordered to post NIS 75,000 bond.

Stulberg's advertising agency produced an "Israel 2000" brochure financed by government ministries and private companies, with the profits split between him and Danon, who allegedly initiated the production of the brochure and convinced other bodies to advertise in it.

ISTEC chairman suspected of stock manipulation

Avihu Horowitz, chairman of the board and managing director of Istec Industries and Technologies Ltd., suspected of fraudulently manipulating stock prices and other instances of fraud involving millions of shekels, was released on bail by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Friday.

Horowitz is suspected of arranging to sell individuals shares in Istec's daughter companies that he held privately, promising them the company would buy them back at inflated prices. Rumors

Army ordered to find ways for soldiers to vote in party primaries

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice at the end of the week gave the army two weeks to examine ways of allowing soldiers to vote in the primaries.

The court was hearing a petition by Mor Shargut, a candidate in the Likud primary, against the army's refusal to allow soldiers to vote in these elections. Soldiers are allowed to vote in general elections.

Justices Aharon Barak, Shlomo Goren, and Dalia Dorner sharply criticized the army's stand, saying they could not understand why soldiers should not be allowed to use their spare time to go vote.

"You're intruding into [soldiers'] private lives," Dorner told the state. "I don't understand why soldiers can join political parties and participate in political conventions in their spare time, but not vote in primaries."

Uzi Fogelman, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, said the army did not want to discriminate against combat soldiers — who cannot take time off to vote — in the primaries because they are on duty around the clock — in favor of non-combat soldiers.

The court refrained from issuing a show-cause order on the petition, since the state said Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak in principle favored letting soldiers vote in primaries, but was merely concerned about finding a method that would not politicize the army.

Aliya down 3.5% in '95

BATSHEVA TSUR

SOME 77,000 immigrants arrived in 1995, down 3.5% compared to last year, the Absorption Ministry spokesman said over the weekend.

In addition, 14,000 Israelis who had lived outside the country for more than two years returned.

This brings to 609,000 the number of people from the former Soviet Union who have made aliya from the since the giant wave of emigration began at the end of 1989. Total immigration figures for the period came to 710,500, the spokesman said.

On the other hand, the number of Jews from the CIS who opted to go to the US dropped dramatically to 18,000 in 1995, as compared with 32,900 in 1994 and 35,000 in 1993. The US has a quota for 40,000 former Soviet Jews.

Among the English-speaking countries, the largest number of immigrants in 1995 came from the US (2,700) followed by Britain (680), Canada (340), South Africa (300), and Australia and New Zealand (130).

Projections for aliya from the CIS for 1996 stood at 62,500, because of the reduced reservoir of Jews there. The figure for 1995 was 65,000. The spokesman said that 28 percent of the immigrants had headed for the Tel Aviv metropolitan area.

Court approves recovery plan for Habimah

HELEN KAYE

TEL AVIV District Court Judge Ishai Levit approved the recovery plan for the Habimah National Theater over the weekend.

The decision came after a noisy, often acrimonious hearing, at which all sides traded insults.

The hearing was to have been a formality, but the whole agreement nearly foundered when government lawyers objected to omissions and what they called key financial provisions in the agreements reached between the theater and its employees.

Saying that "There was nothing in these disagreements which warrants the closing of Habimah," Levit effected the necessary compromises after more than four hours of wrangling.

The recovery plan, which will enable the Treasury to channel funds to the theater, was hammered out after four months of negotiations, which more than once were on the point of collapse. It includes a salary freeze and 10 percent pay cuts for Habimah employees and payment of 85% of the theater's debt.

Arts and Culture Authority head Yossi Frost said the final form of the recovery plan "will just mean the same situation [will occur] in a few years."

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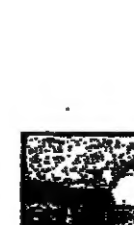
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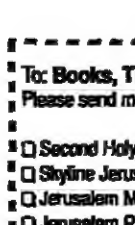
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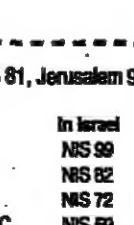
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